ACTION COMICS

PIPPIRA NOTE

ぴっぴら帳（ノート）

1

KONO FUMIYO
こうの史代

FUTABASHA

ACTION COMICS
FUMIYO KOUNO
FUTABASHA

PIPPIRA DIAGRAM

ぴっぴらさん大図解

BIRDY BEAK: MADE OF PLASTIC

BIRDY NOSE: BLUE AND PINK FOR GENTS, WHITE AND BROWN FOR LADIES.*

BIRDY HEAD: IN ORDER TO CONFUSE THEIR ENEMIES, IT LOOKS MUCH LIKE AN OLD MAN'S COMBOVER.

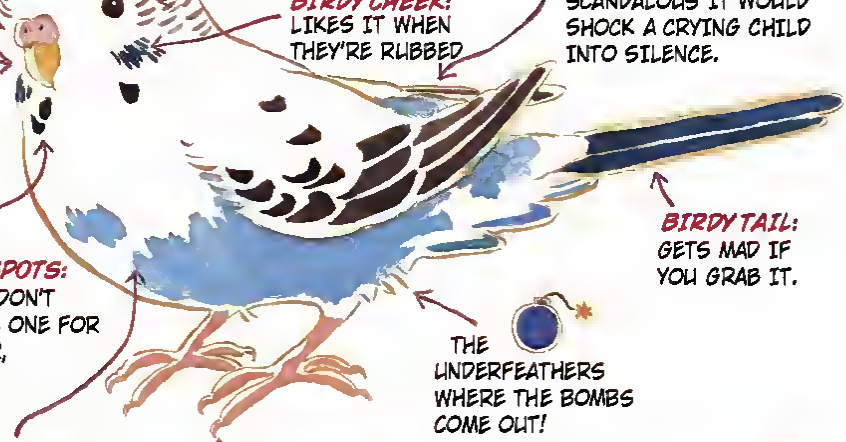
BIRDY BRAIN: THE TYPE TO HOLD A GRUDGE

BIRDY CLAIRVOYANCE

BIRDY SHARP EARS: THEY'RE COVERED BY FEATHERS, BUT DON'T BE FOOLED!

BIRDY CHEEK: LIKES IT WHEN THEY'RE RUBBED

A YAKUZA TATTOO SO SCANDALOUS IT WOULD SHOCK A CRYING CHILD INTO SILENCE.



BIRDY TAIL: GETS MAD IF YOU GRAB IT.

BIRDY SPOTS: SO YOU DON'T MISTAKE ONE FOR ANOTHER, I THINK.

THE UNDERFEATHERS WHERE THE BOMBS COME OUT!

BIRDY BELLY: PACKED FULL OF HAPPINESS.

BIRDY FEET: THEY SKITTER AROUND LIKE A COCKROACH.

INTERNAL DIAGRAM

なかみ大図解

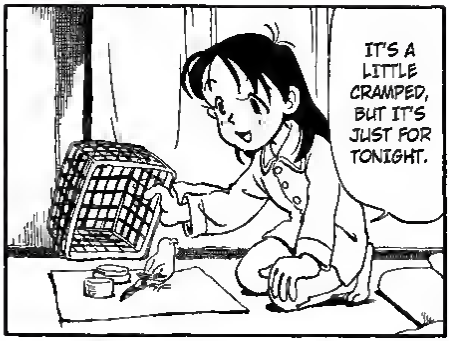
*NOTE: AVERAGE BUDGIES ARE FEMALE IF THEIR NOSE IS PINK. PIPPIRA IS A RECESSIVE PIED, THEREFORE PINK IS FOR MALES.

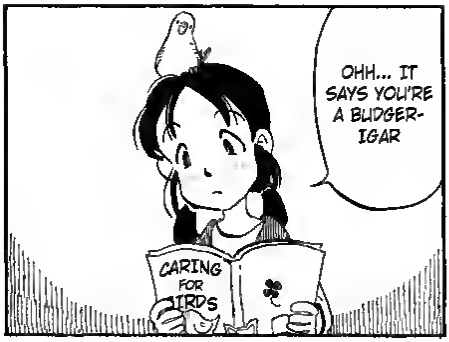
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN
YOUR PRECIOUS EVERYDAY LIFE
IS INTERRUPTED BY SOMEONE
SUDDENLY DROPPING INTO IT.

THIS BOOK IS ABOUT
ONE SUCH TIME.

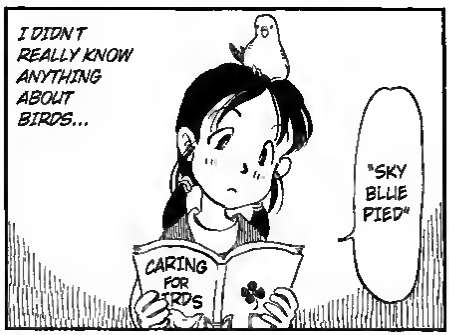
I SPOTTED A VERY STRANGE THING...
WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY BE?
LIGHT BLUE
IT WAS... "A STRANGE LITTLE BIRD."
PART 1

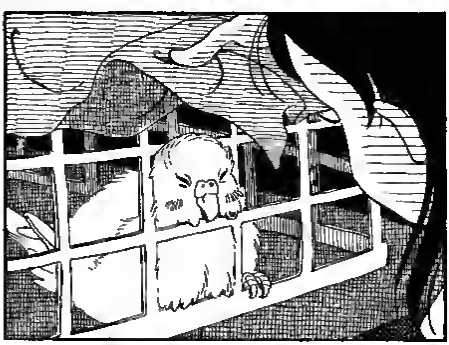
I WENT AND CHECKED THIS BOOK OUT OF THE LIBRARY!
CARING FOR BIRDS
I ALSO BOUGHT BIRD FEED, BUT... I WONDER IF THIS IS ANY GOOD?
BIRD FEED
HERE!
OH, AND HERE'S SOME WATER.
HM... IT'S NOT LIKE I CARE, BUT..
YUM YUM! ENJOY IT!
YOU DON'T EAT LIKE A BIRD AT ALL!!
CHOMP CHOMP
WHITE BREAD

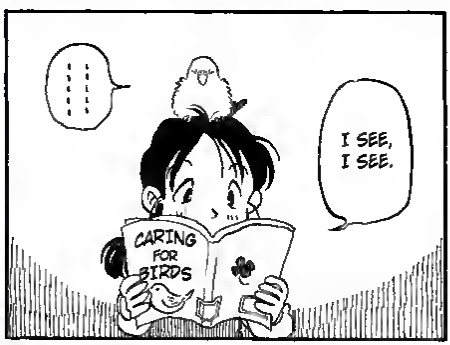

IT'S A LITTLE CRAMPED, BUT IT'S JUST FOR TONIGHT.


OHH... IT SAYS YOU'RE A BUDGER-IGAR
CARING FOR BIRDS

I WONDER WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHILE SLEEPING..

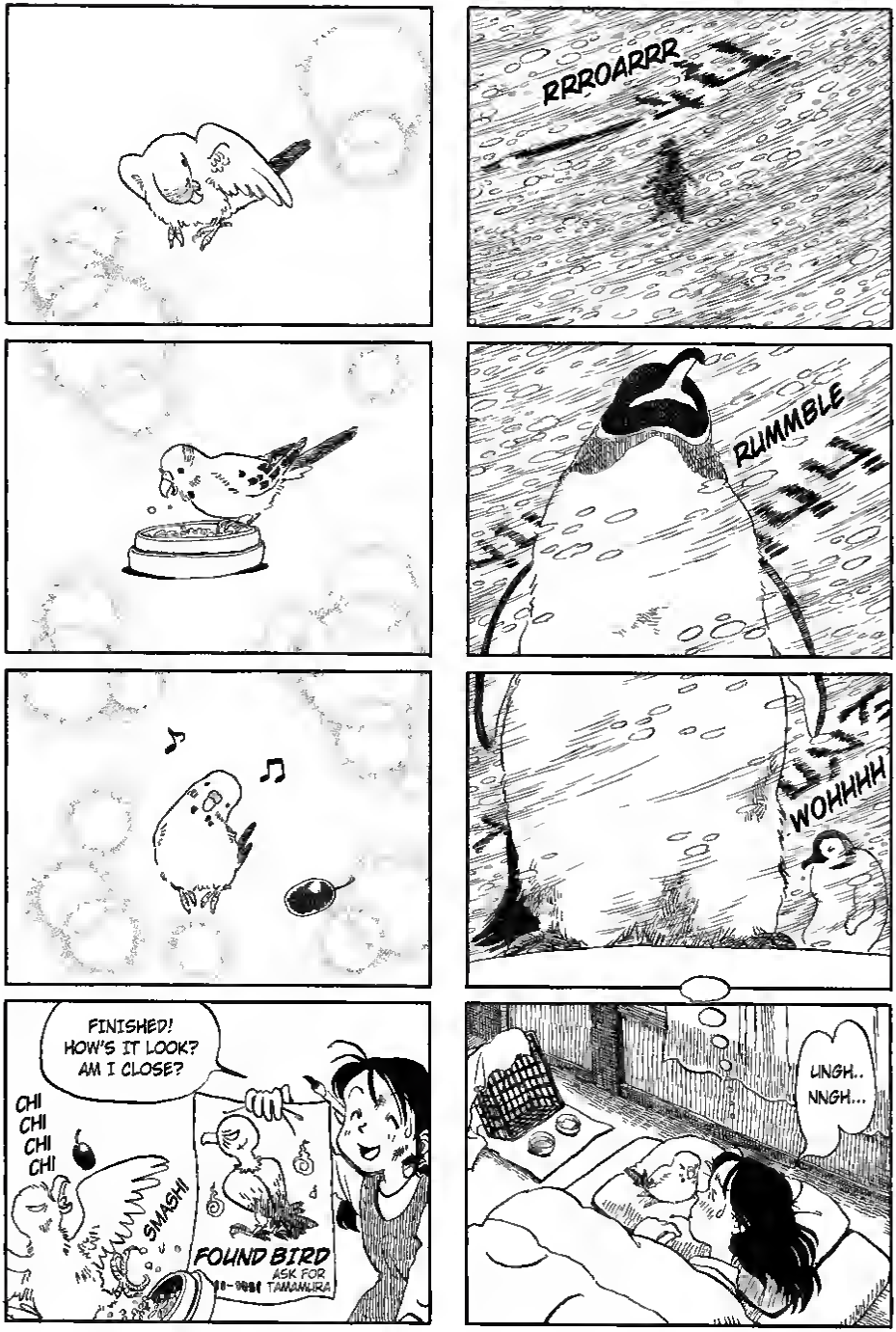

I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BIRDS...
"SKY BLUE PIED"
CARING FOR BIRDS



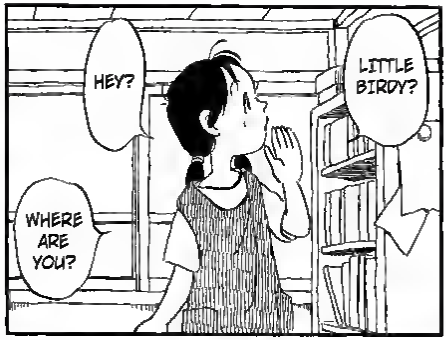

I SEE, I SEE.
CARING FOR BIRDS

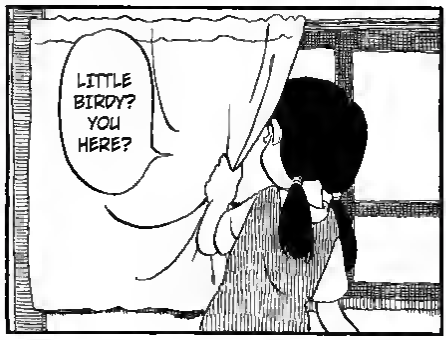
BUDUMP BUDUMP

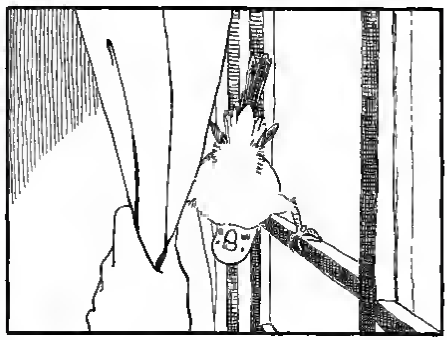
UH OH, I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THAT!
BUT THERE WERE ALSO THINGS I COULD LEARN BY INSTINCT
JUUUU
TISSUES, TISSUES!!

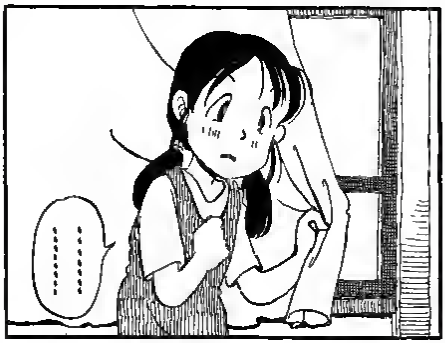

RRROARRR
RUMMBLE
WOHHHH
FINISHED! HOW'S IT LOOK? AM I CLOSE?
CHI CHI CHI CHI
SMASH!
FOUND BIRD
ASK FOR TAMAHIRA
UNGH.. NNGH...

PART 2


HEY?
LITTLE BIRDY?
WHERE ARE YOU?


LITTLE BIRDY? YOU HERE?

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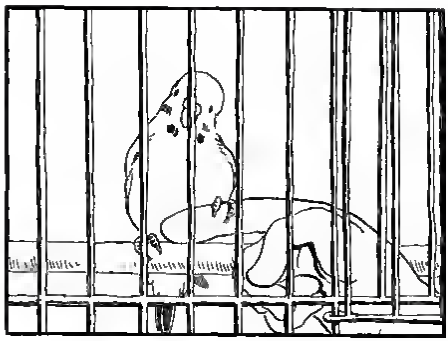
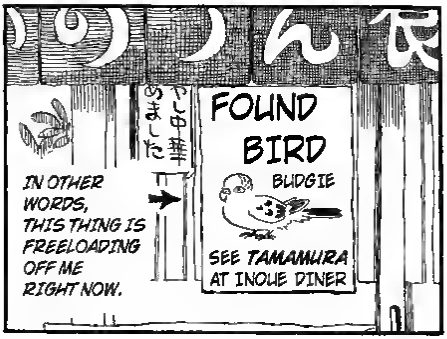
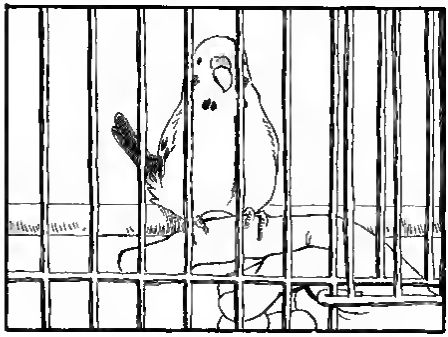
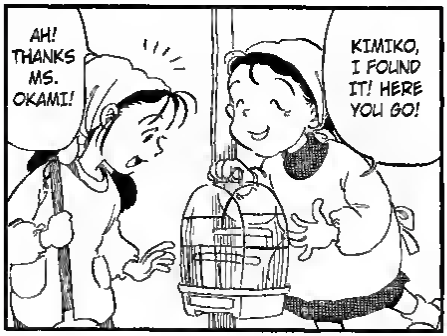
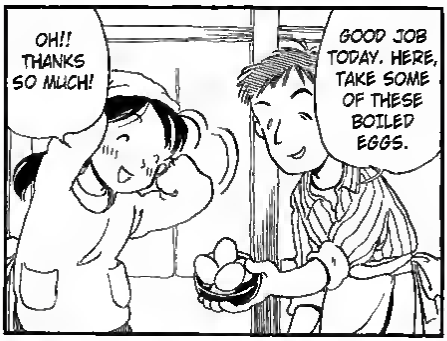


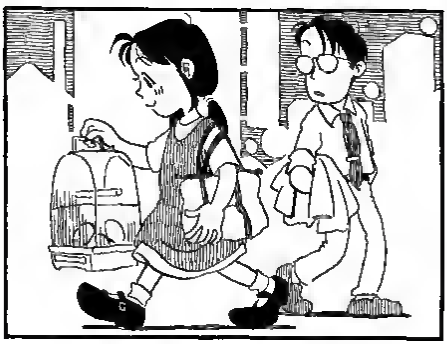

FOUND
BIRD
BUDGIE
SEE TAMAMURA
AT INOUE DINER
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS THING IS FREELOADING OFF ME RIGHT NOW.

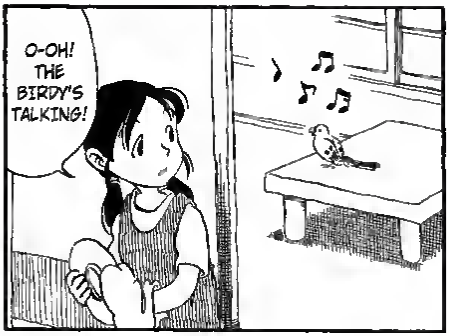


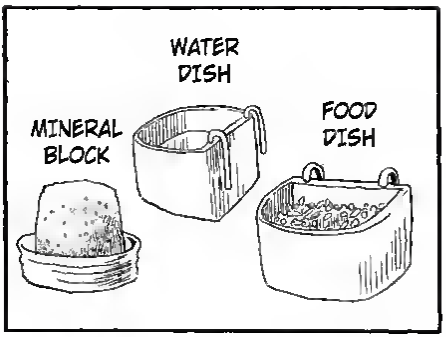

AH! THANKS MS. OKAMI!
KIMIKO, I FOUND IT! HERE YOU GO!

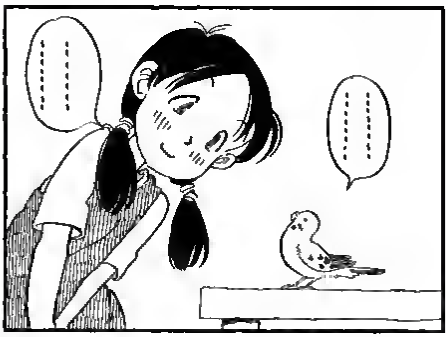

OH!! THANKS SO MUCH!
GOOD JOB TODAY. HERE, TAKE SOME OF THESE BOILED EGGS.

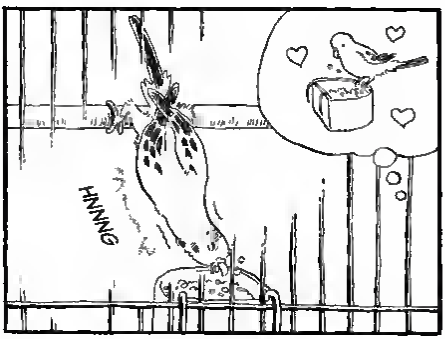
THAT PERCH IS IN A WEIRD PLACE...

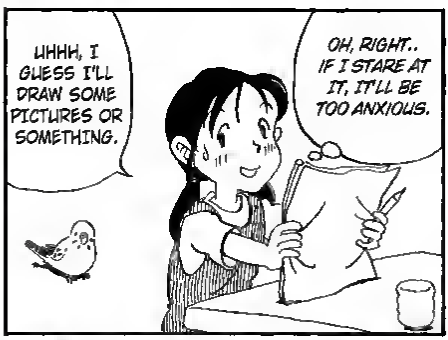


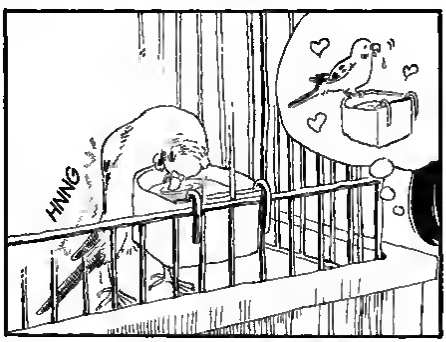

O-OH! THE BIRDY'S TALKING!

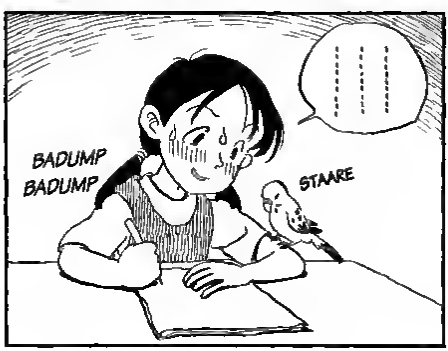

WATER DISH
MINERAL BLOCK
FOOD DISH

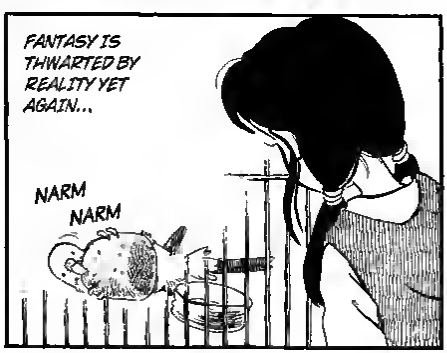


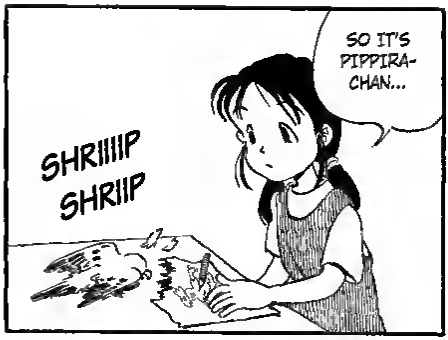

HNNNG

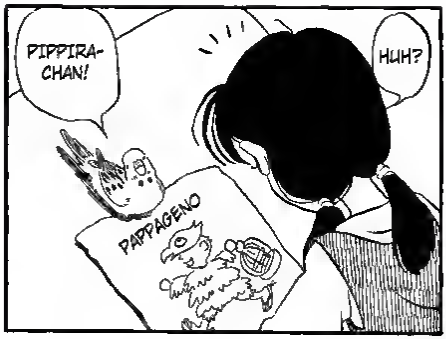

UHHH, I GUESS I'LL DRAW SOME PICTURES OR SOMETHING.
OH, RIGHT.. IF I STARE AT IT, IT'LL BE TOO ANXIOUS.

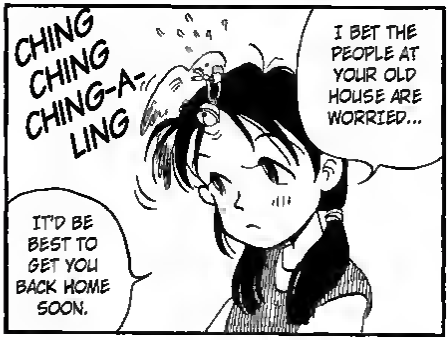

HNNG

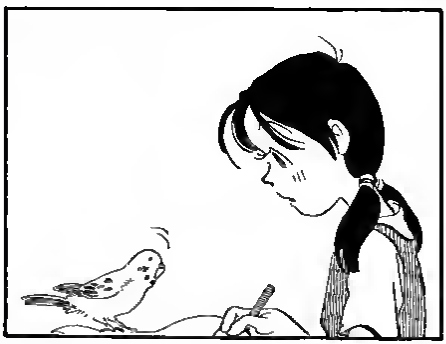

BADUMP BADUMP
STAARE

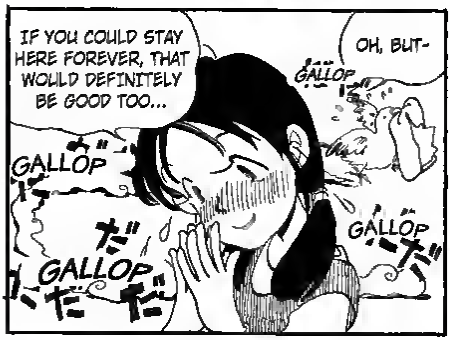

FANTASY IS THWARTED BY REALITY YET AGAIN...
NARM NARM

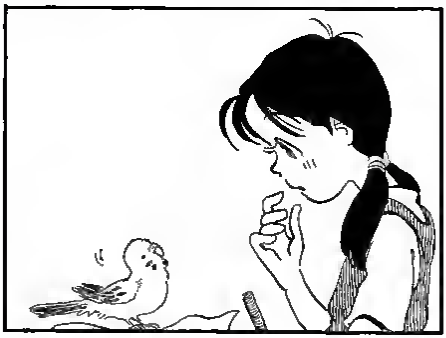

SHRIIIIP
SHRIIP
SO IT'S PIPPIRA-CHAN...

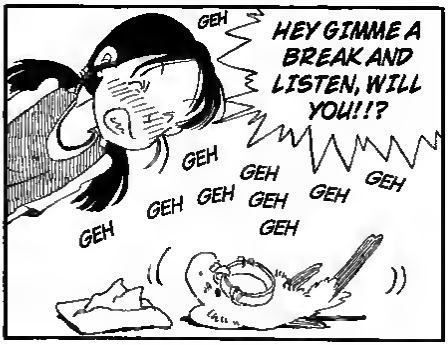

PIPPIRA-CHAN!
HUH?
PAPPAGENO


CHING CHING CHING-A-LING
I BET THE PEOPLE AT YOUR OLD HOUSE ARE WORRIED...
IT'D BE BEST TO GET YOU BACK HOME SOON.

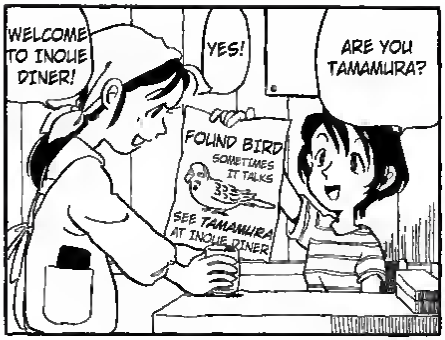


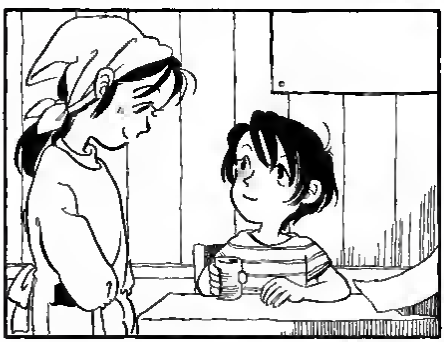

IF YOU COULD STAY HERE FOREVER, THAT WOULD DEFINITELY BE GOOD TOO...
OH, BUT-
GALLOP
GALLOP
GALLOP
GALLOP

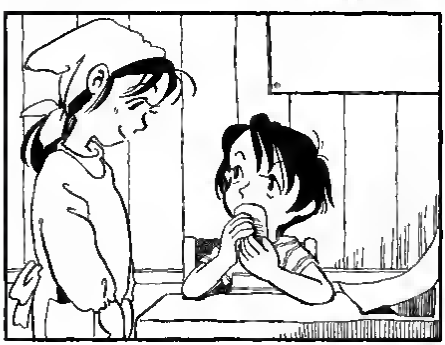



GEH
HEY GIMME A BREAK AND LISTEN, WILL YOU!!?
GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH

CHI CHI CHI CHIIII
ISN'T IT A LITTLE WEIRD TO CALL YOURSELF CHAN?
WEIIIRDO
SHRIP
SHRIP


WELCOME TO INOUE DINER!
YES!
ARE YOU TAMAMURA?
FOUND BIRD
SOMETIMES IT TALKS
SEE TAMAMURA AT INOUE DINER

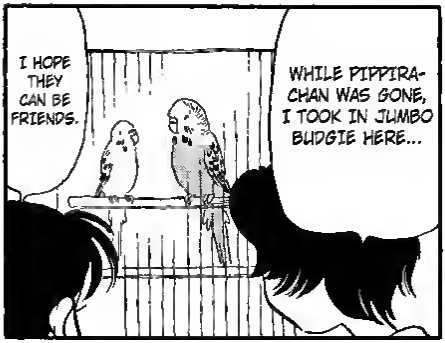


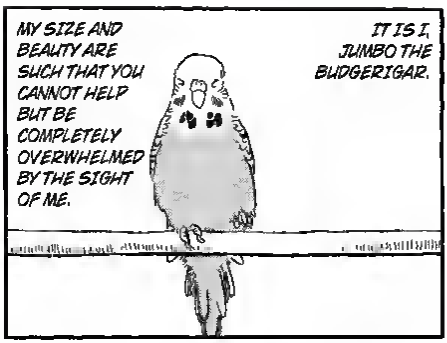


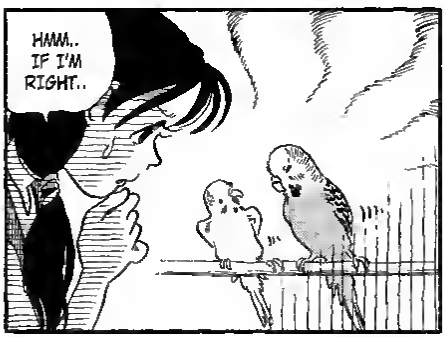
SIGH...
OKAME UDON, PLEASE.

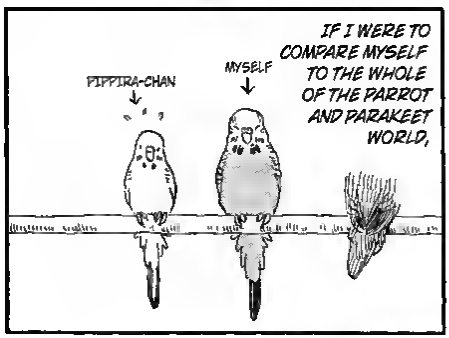
PART 3

YEAH, IT'S FINE!
IS IT OKAY TO HAVE HIM OUTSIDE A CAGE LIKE THAT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M KATSUMI KASHIDA. THIS IS FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF MY PIPPIRA.
BECAUSE WE TRUST EACH OTHER, RIGHT PIPPIRA-CHAN?
UHH... PIPPIRA?
BY THE BY, WHERE IS HE?
GLUG GLUG GLUG
OH HERE, 'SCUSE ME.
I KNOW IT WAS REALLY IRRITATING, THOUGH...
NOW, NOW
ALRIGHT YOU, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE MORE CHANCE... DO IT RIGHT!
AH HAH!
AH HAH! HE FALLS FOR THAT SOUND EVERY TIME!

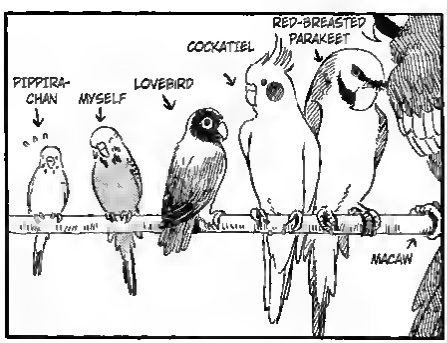

I HOPE THEY CAN BE FRIENDS.
WHILE PIPPIRA-CHAN WAS GONE, I TOOK IN JUMBO BUDGIE HERE...


MY SIZE AND BEAUTY ARE SUCH THAT YOU CANNOT HELP BUT BE COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY THE SIGHT OF ME.
IT IS I, JUMBO THE BUDGERIGAR.

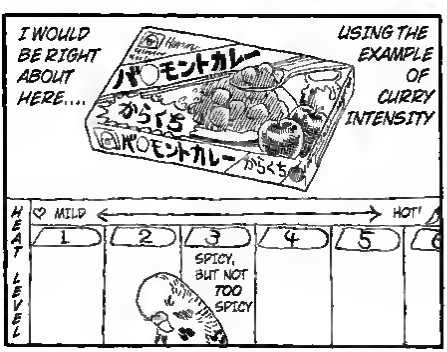

HMM.. IF I'M RIGHT..

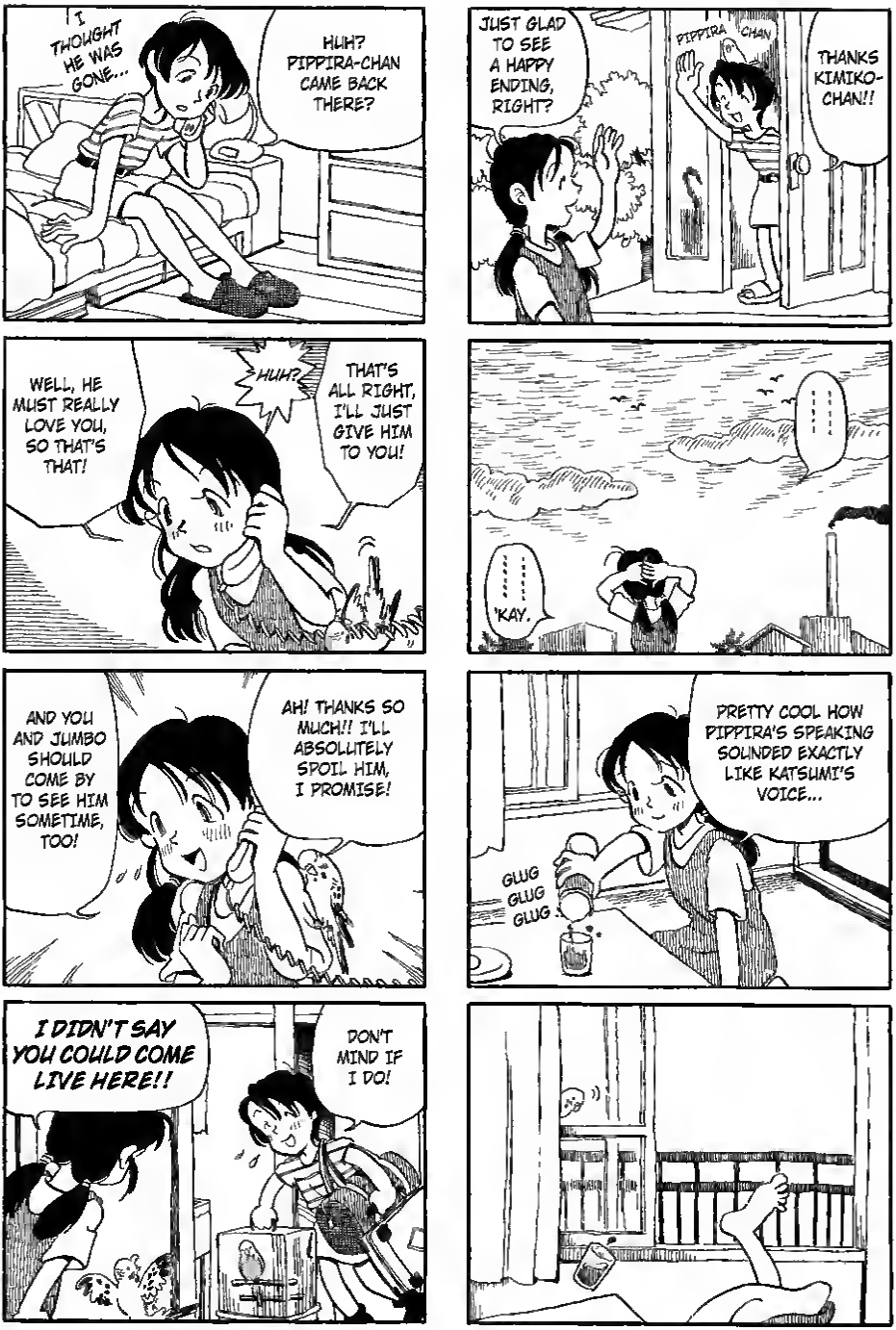

PIPPIRA-CHAN
MYSELF
IF I WERE TO COMPARE MYSELF TO THE WHOLE OF THE PARROT AND PARAKEET WORLD,

Jambo!
...I THINK JAMBO MEANS HELLO IN SWAHILI, AND THAT SOUNDS JUST LIKE JUMBO WHEN YOU SAY IT OUT LOUD.


PIPPIRA-CHAN
MYSELF
LOVEBIRD
COCKATIEL
RED-BREASTED PARAKEET
MACAW

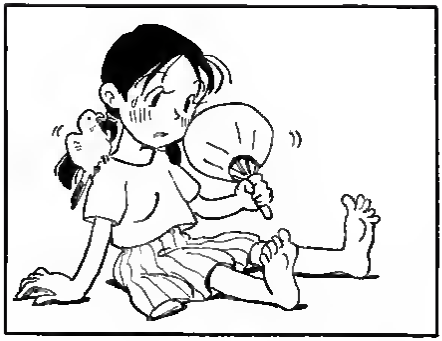
SORRY! I JUST COULDN'T STAND THE TENSE ATMOSPHERE!!
WAIT, WHAT?
CHI CHI CHI CHI
KRSHH!!


I WOULD BE RIGHT ABOUT HERE....
USING THE EXAMPLE OF CURRY INTENSITY
HEAT LEVEL
MILD
HOT!
1
2
3
4
5
SPICY, BUT NOT TOO SPICY

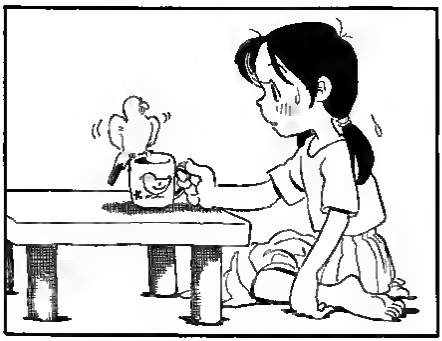

I THOUGHT HE WAS GONE...
HUH? PIPPIRA-CHAN CAME BACK THERE?
JUST GLAD TO SEE A HAPPY ENDING, RIGHT?
PIPPIRA CHAN
THANKS KIMIKO-CHAN!!
WELL, HE MUST REALLY LOVE YOU, SO THAT'S THAT!
HUH?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, I'LL JUST GIVE HIM TO YOU!
.....
'KAY.
AND YOU AND JUMBO SHOULD COME BY TO SEE HIM SOMETIME, TOO!
AH! THANKS SO MUCH!! I'LL ABSOLUTELY SPOIL HIM, I PROMISE!
PRETTY COOL HOW PIPPIRA'S SPEAKING SOUNDED EXACTLY LIKE KATSUMI'S VOICE...
GLUG GLUG GLUG
I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD COME LIVE HERE!!
DON'T MIND IF I DO!

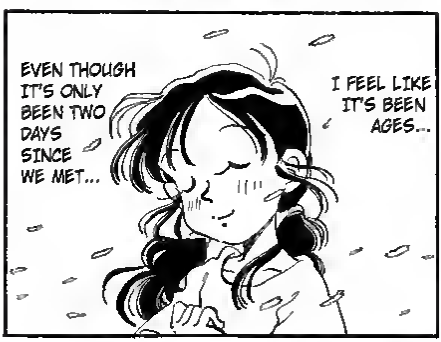
WHEW, IT'S SO HOT TODAY!
HOT, HOT HOT!
EVERYTHING ALL HALF-OPEN LIKE THAT...
F-FOR A SEC THERE, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE HEAT...
PART 4
CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY
INOUE DINER

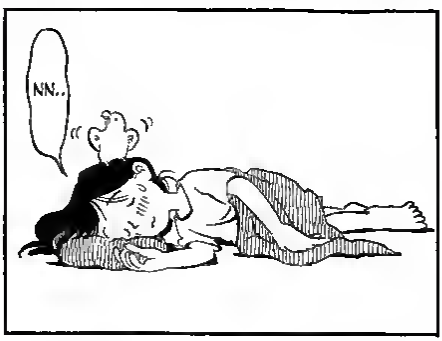
I BET THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN A RATTAN BLIND, HUH?
CHEEP CHEEP!



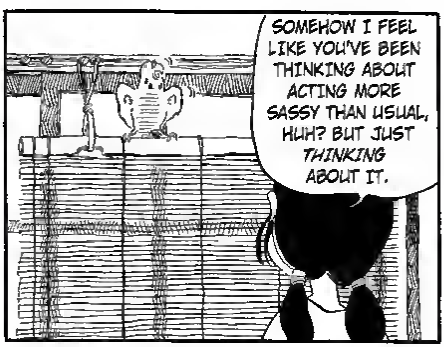
IT'S OK, IT'S OK, DON'T BE SCARED!

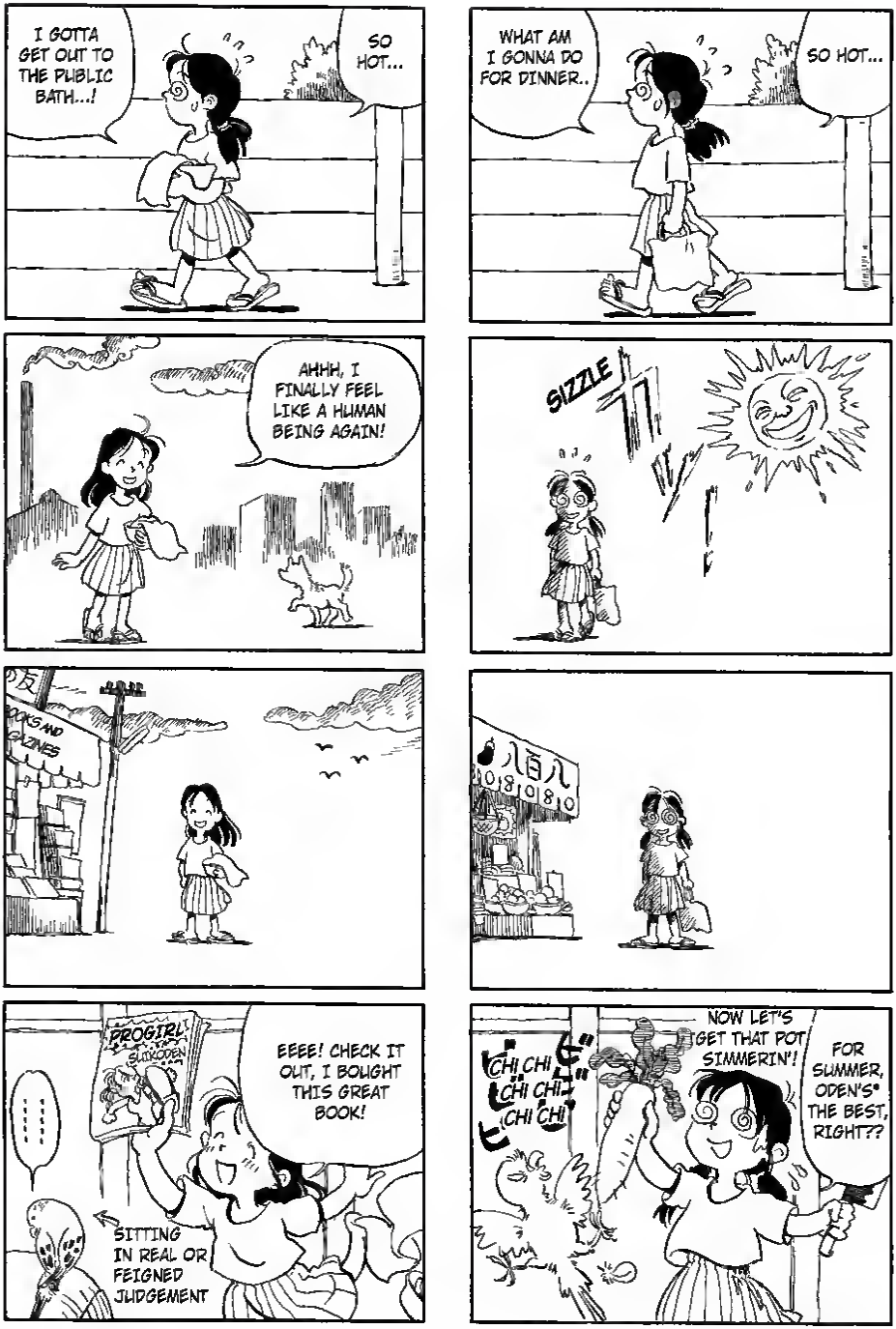



EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE WE MET...
I FEEL LIKE IT'S BEEN AGES...

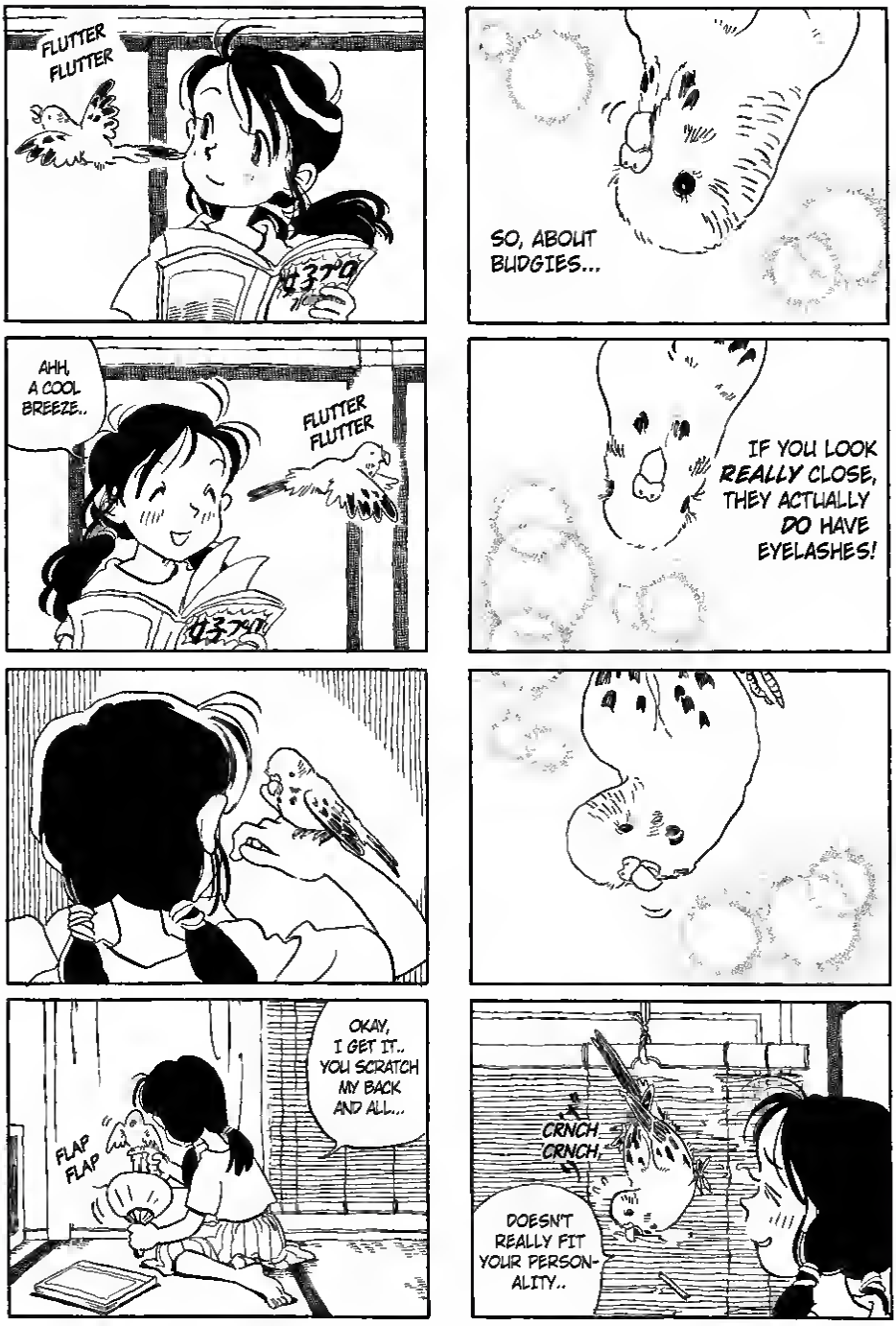

NN..

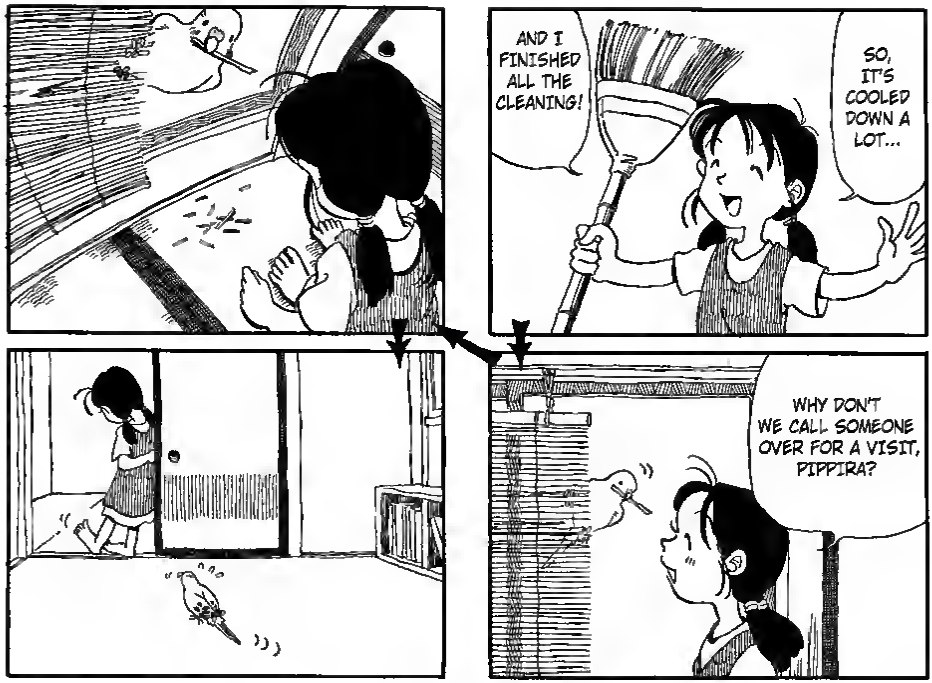
IF ONLY I COULD RETURN TO THOSE FAR-OFF TIMES!
CRUNCH
CRACKLE

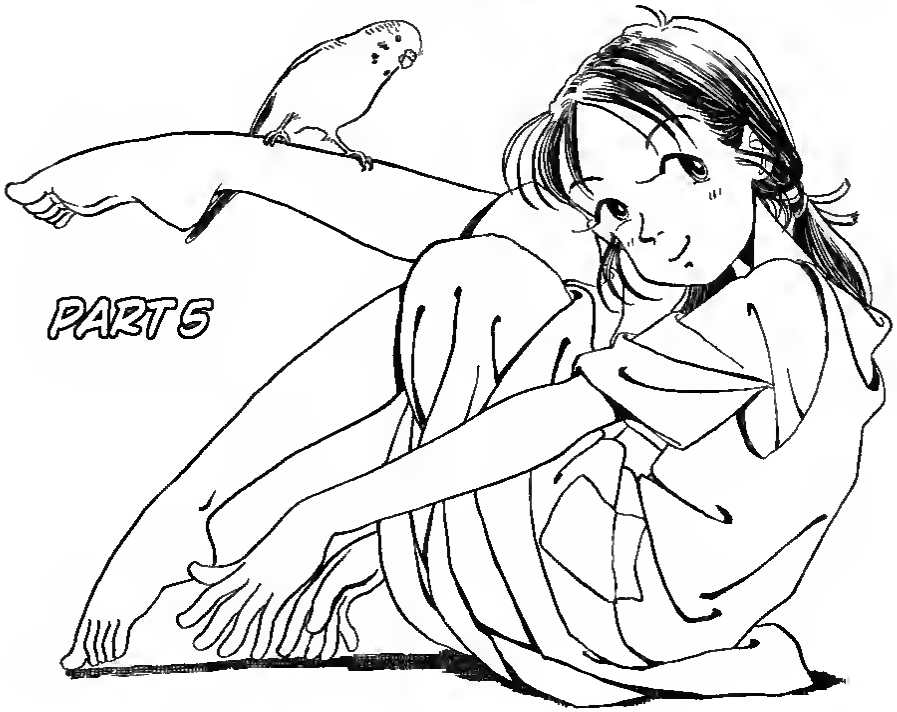

SOMEHOW I FEEL LIKE YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ACTING MORE SASSY THAN USUAL, HUH? BUT JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

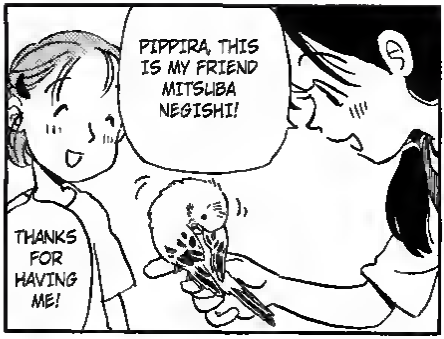

I GOTTA GET OUT TO THE PUBLIC BATH...!
SO HOT...
WHAT AM I GONNA DO FOR DINNER..
SO HOT...
AHHH, I FINALLY FEEL LIKE A HUMAN BEING AGAIN!
SIZZLE
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES
PROGIRL
EEEE! CHECK IT OUT, I BOUGHT THIS GREAT BOOK!
SITTING IN REAL OR FEIGNED JUDGEMENT
NOW LET'S GET THAT POT SIMMERIN'!
CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI
FOR SUMMER, ODEN'S* THE BEST, RIGHT??

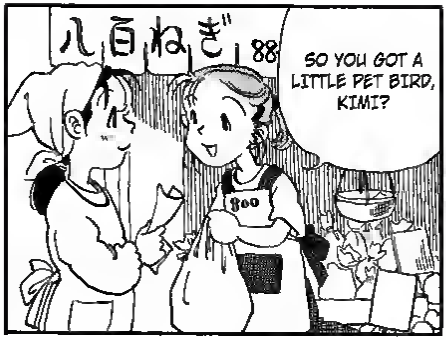
*ODEN IS A HOT SOUP MOSTLY EATEN IN WINTER

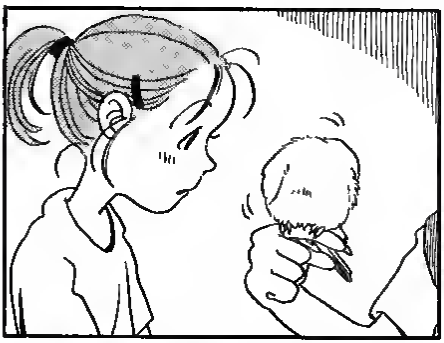

FLUTTER FLUTTER
SO, ABOUT BUDGIES...
AHH, A COOL BREEZE..
FLUTTER FLUTTER
IF YOU LOOK REALLY CLOSE, THEY ACTUALLY DO HAVE EYELASHES!
OKAY, I GET IT.. YOU SCRATCH MY BACK AND ALL...
FLAP FLAP
CRNCH CRNCH
DOESN'T REALLY FIT YOUR PERSONALITY..

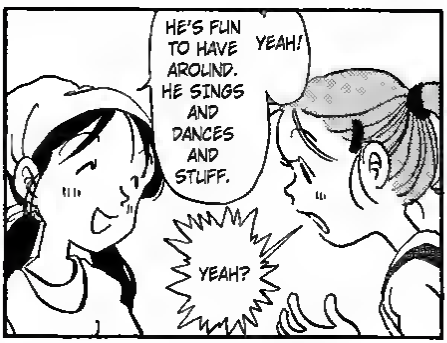

AND I FINISHED ALL THE CLEANING!
SO, IT'S COOLED DOWN A LOT...
WHY DON'T WE CALL SOMEONE OVER FOR A VISIT, PIPPIRA?

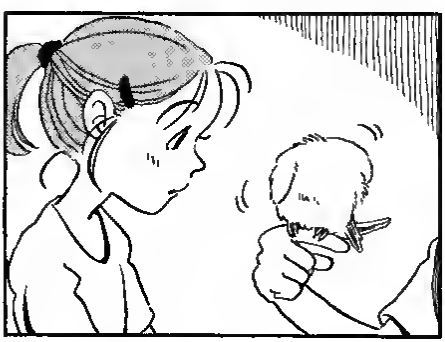

PART 5

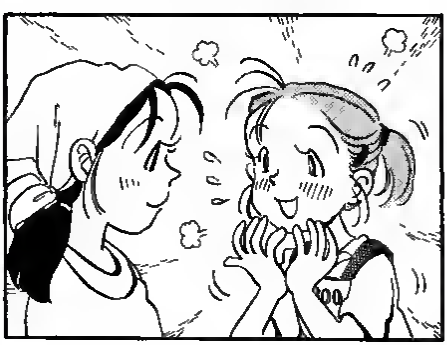

PIPPIRA, THIS IS MY FRIEND MITSUBA NEGISHI!
THANKS FOR HAVING ME!

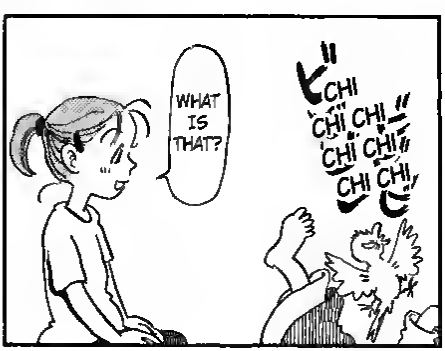

八目ねぎ
SO YOU GOT A LITTLE PET BIRD, KIMI?

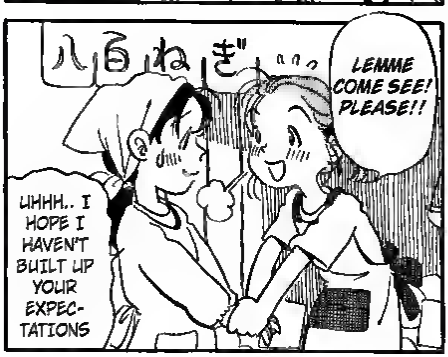


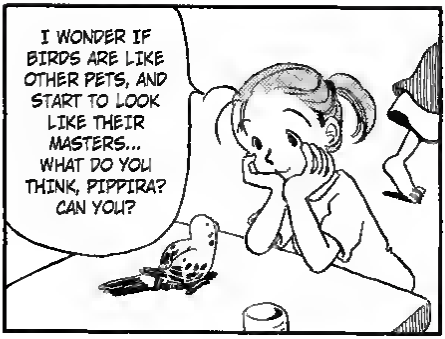

HE'S FUN TO HAVE AROUND. HE SINGS AND DANCES AND STUFF.
YEAH!
YEAH?

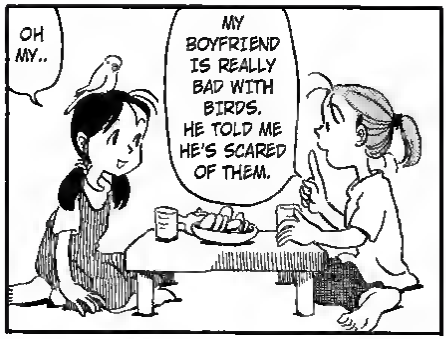


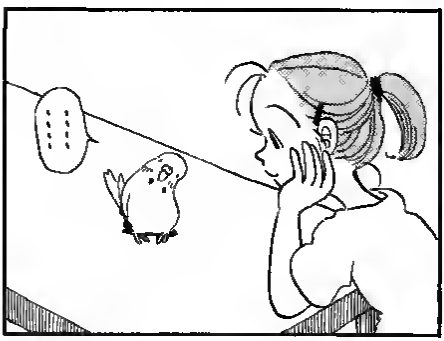


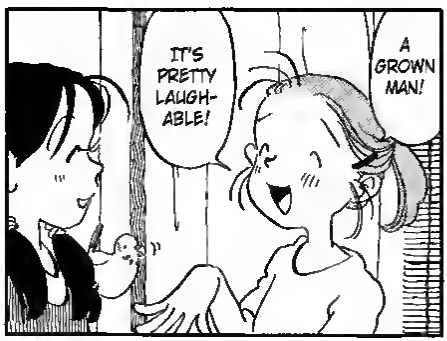

WHAT IS THAT?
ピCHI CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI CHIピ

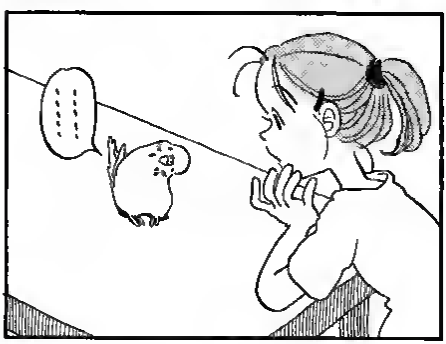

八目ねぎ
LEMME COME SEE! PLEASE!!
UHHH.. I HOPE I HAVEN'T BUILT UP YOUR EXPEC-TATIONS

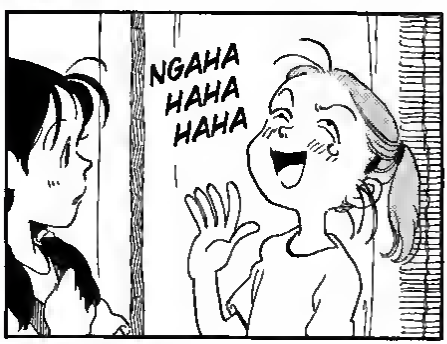


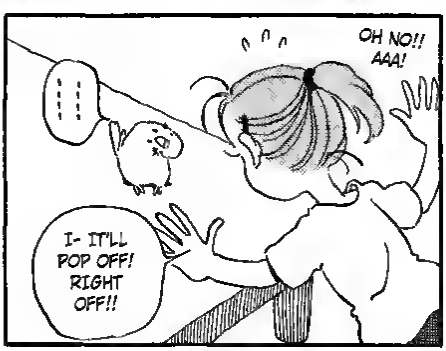


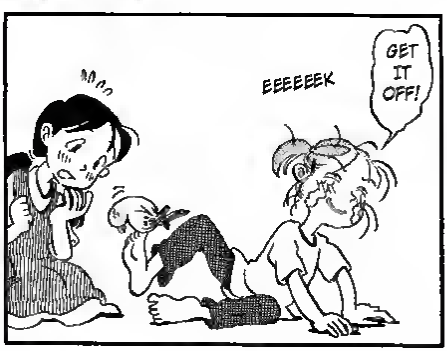




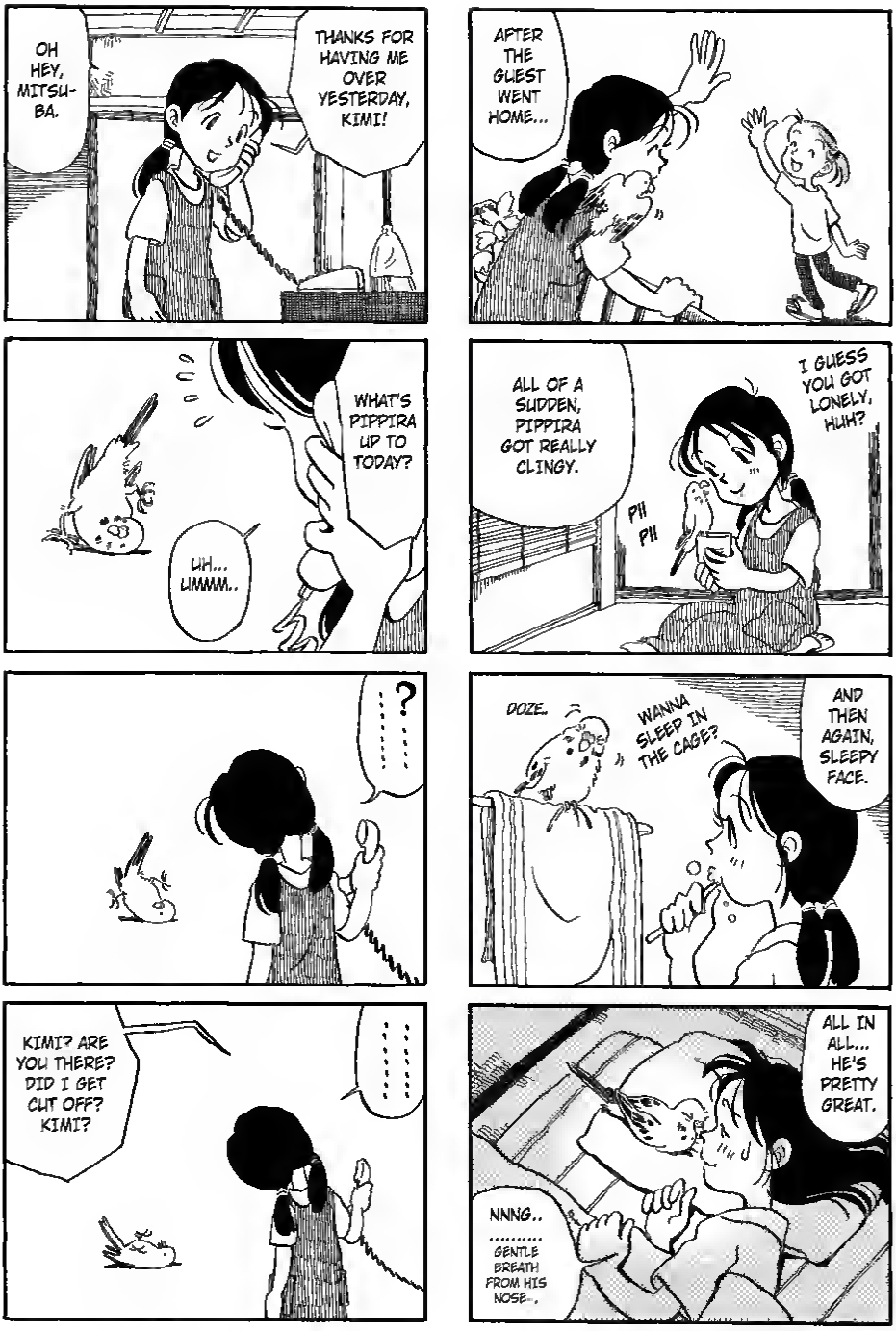


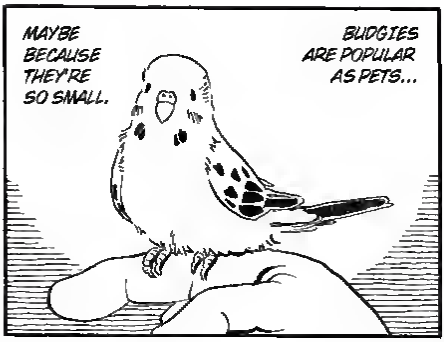


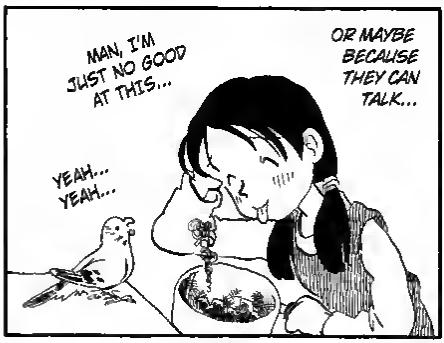


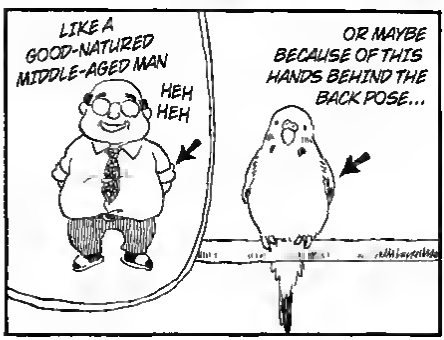


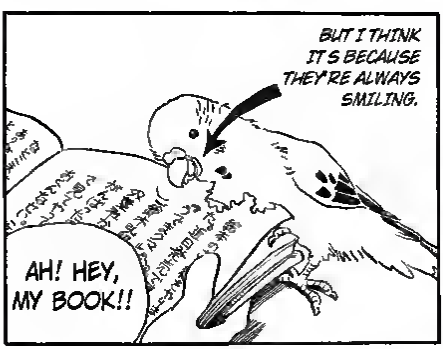
※ THE TRUE ANSWER IS ON THE NEXT PAGE!


OH HEY, MITSU-BA.
THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER YESTERDAY, KIMI!
AFTER THE GUEST WENT HOME...
WHAT'S PIPPIRA UP TO TODAY?
UH... UMMM..
ALL OF A SUDDEN, PIPPIRA GOT REALLY CLINGY.
I GUESS YOU GOT LONELY, HUH?
PI! PI!
?
DOZE.
WANNA SLEEP IN THE CAGE?
AND THEN AGAIN, SLEEPY FACE.
KIMI? ARE YOU THERE? DID I GET CUT OFF? KIMI?
ALL IN ALL... HE'S PRETTY GREAT.
NNNG.. ..... GENTLE BREATH FROM HIS NOSE-.

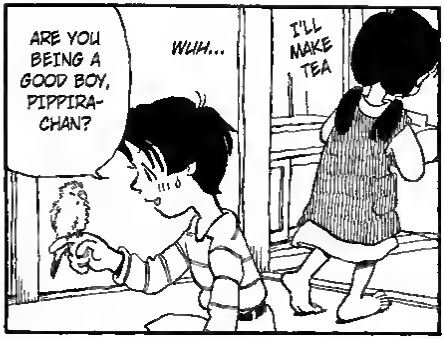

MAYBE BECAUSE THEY'RE SO SMALL.
BUDGIES ARE POPULAR AS PETS...

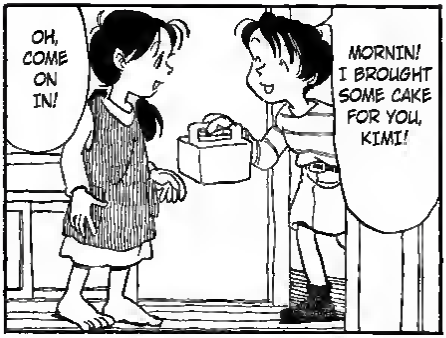

MAN, I'M JUST NO GOOD AT THIS...
OR MAYBE BECAUSE THEY CAN TALK...
YEAH... YEAH...

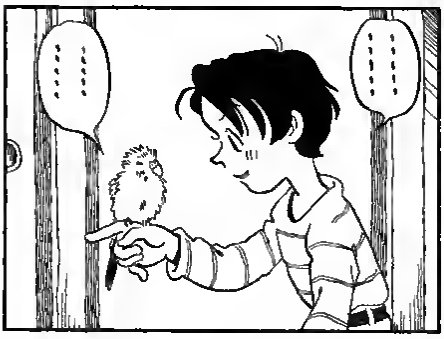

LIKE A GOOD-NATURED MIDDLE-AGED MAN
HEH HEH
OR MAYBE BECAUSE OF THIS HANDS BEHIND THE BACK POSE...


BUT I THINK IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE ALWAYS SMILING.
AH! HEY, MY BOOK!!

PART 6


ARE YOU BEING A GOOD BOY, PIPPIRA-CHAN?
WUH...
I'LL MAKE TEA


OH, COME ON IN!
MORNIN! I BROUGHT SOME CAKE FOR YOU, KIMI!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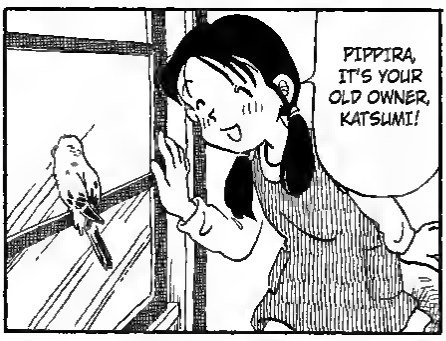
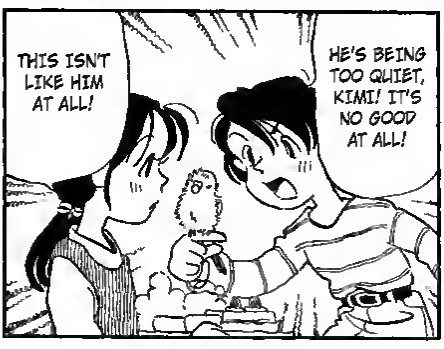
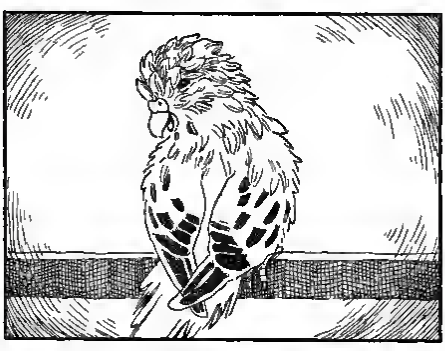
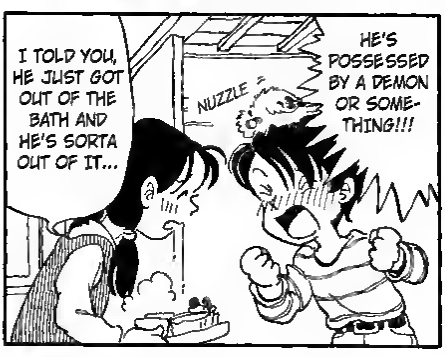
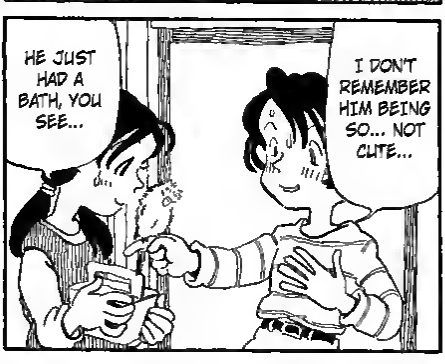

PIPPIRA, IT'S YOUR OLD OWNER, KATSUMI!

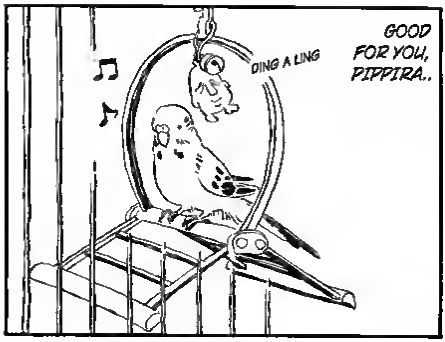

THIS ISN'T LIKE HIM AT ALL!
HE'S BEING TOO QUIET, KIMI! IT'S NO GOOD AT ALL!

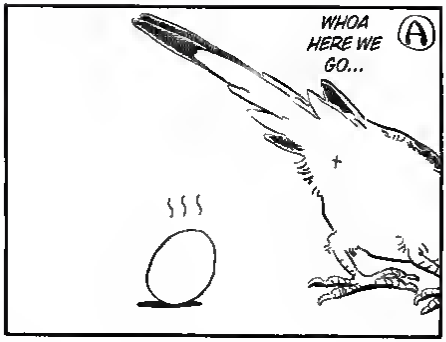


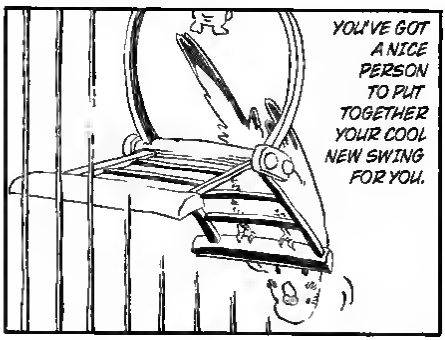

I TOLD YOU, HE JUST GOT OUT OF THE BATH AND HE'S SORTA OUT OF IT...
NUZZLE
HE'S POSSESSED BY A DEMON OR SOME-THING!!!

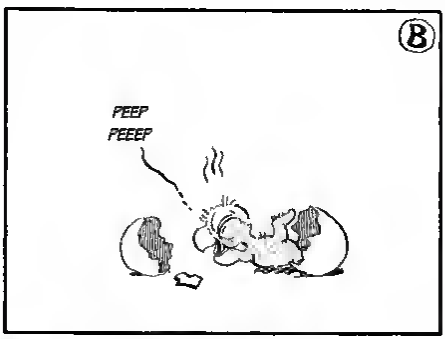

HE JUST HAD A BATH, YOU SEE...
I DON'T REMEMBER HIM BEING SO... NOT CUTE...

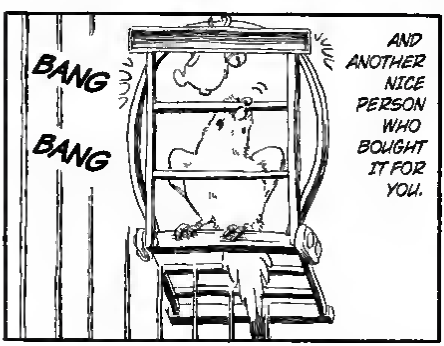
OH REALLY?
YOU SEE, TODAY'S PIPPIRA'S BIRTHDAY, SO I THOUGHT I'D COME AND GIVE HIM THIS PRESENT...
ER-
YOU CAME TO VISIT FOR A SPECIAL REASON, RIGHT?
AW, I WISH I HAD SOME-THING TO GIVE HIM..
WELL, IT'S NOT... REALLY...
YOU'VE BEEN MAKING KIND OF A WEIRD FACE, KATSUMI.
...SUPER IMPORTANT OR ANY-THING...
OH, ER.. UM
DING A LING
BY THE WAY, WHAT IS THAT THING?
IT'S A NUPPEHOFU YOKAI... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
YOUR WEIRD-FACE IS WAY WEIRDER THAN MINE WAS, KIMI!!!
..WHAT?

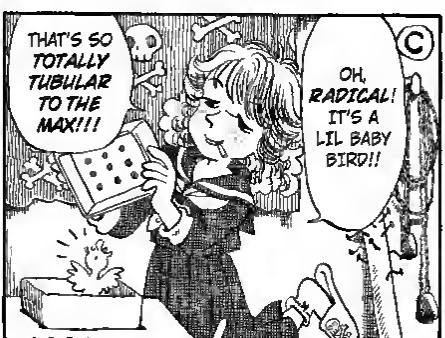

DING A LING
GOOD FOR YOU, PIPPIRA..

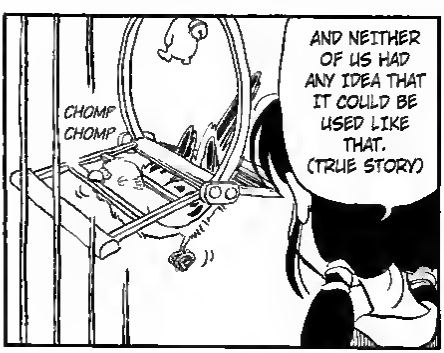

WHOA HERE WE GO...
Ⓐ


YOU'VE GOT A NICE PERSON TO PUT TOGETHER YOUR COOL NEW SWING FOR YOU.

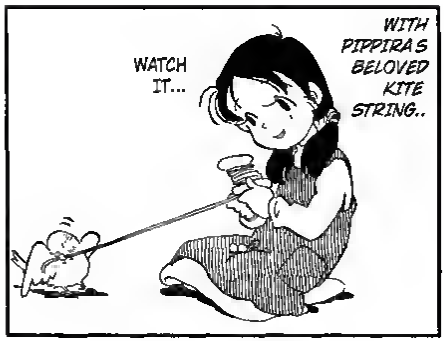

Ⓑ
PEEP
PEEEP


BANG
BANG
AND ANOTHER NICE PERSON WHO BOUGHT IT FOR YOU.

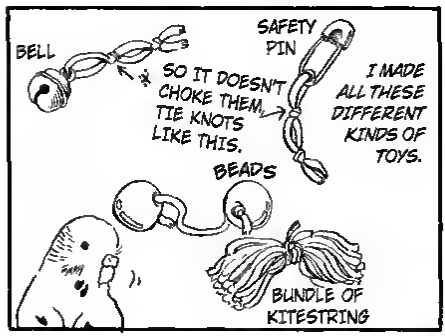

THAT'S SO TOTALLY TUBULAR TO THE MAX!!!
Ⓒ
OH, RADICAL! IT'S A LIL BABY BIRD!!

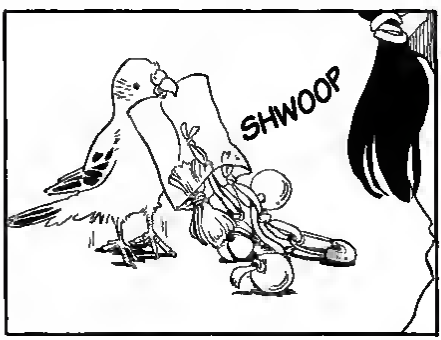

CHOMP CHOMP
AND NEITHER OF US HAD ANY IDEA THAT IT COULD BE USED LIKE THAT. (TRUE STORY)

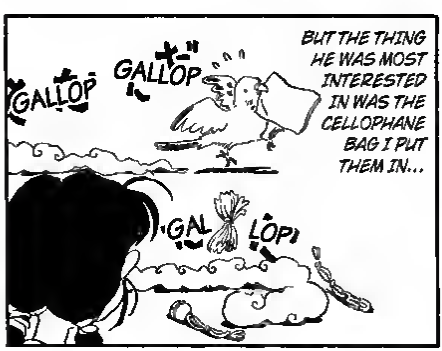
WAIT, WAIT A SEC, IS Ⓒ SUPPOSED TO BE ME??
I DON'T LIKE Ⓑ!!
OH OH OH
WHEN IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?? AND WHY AM I A PUNK?
OK SO WHICH ONE OF THOSE THREE DO YOU COUNT AS HIS BIRTHDAY?

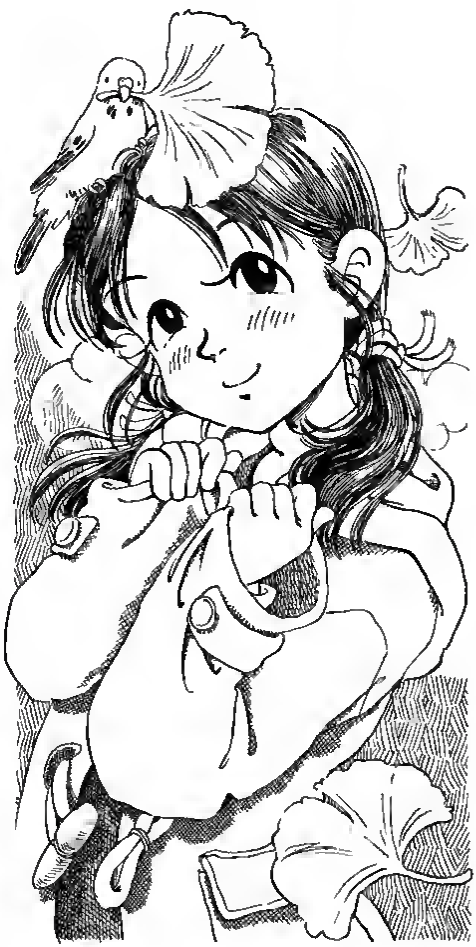

WATCH IT...
WITH PIPPIRA'S BELOVED KITE STRING..

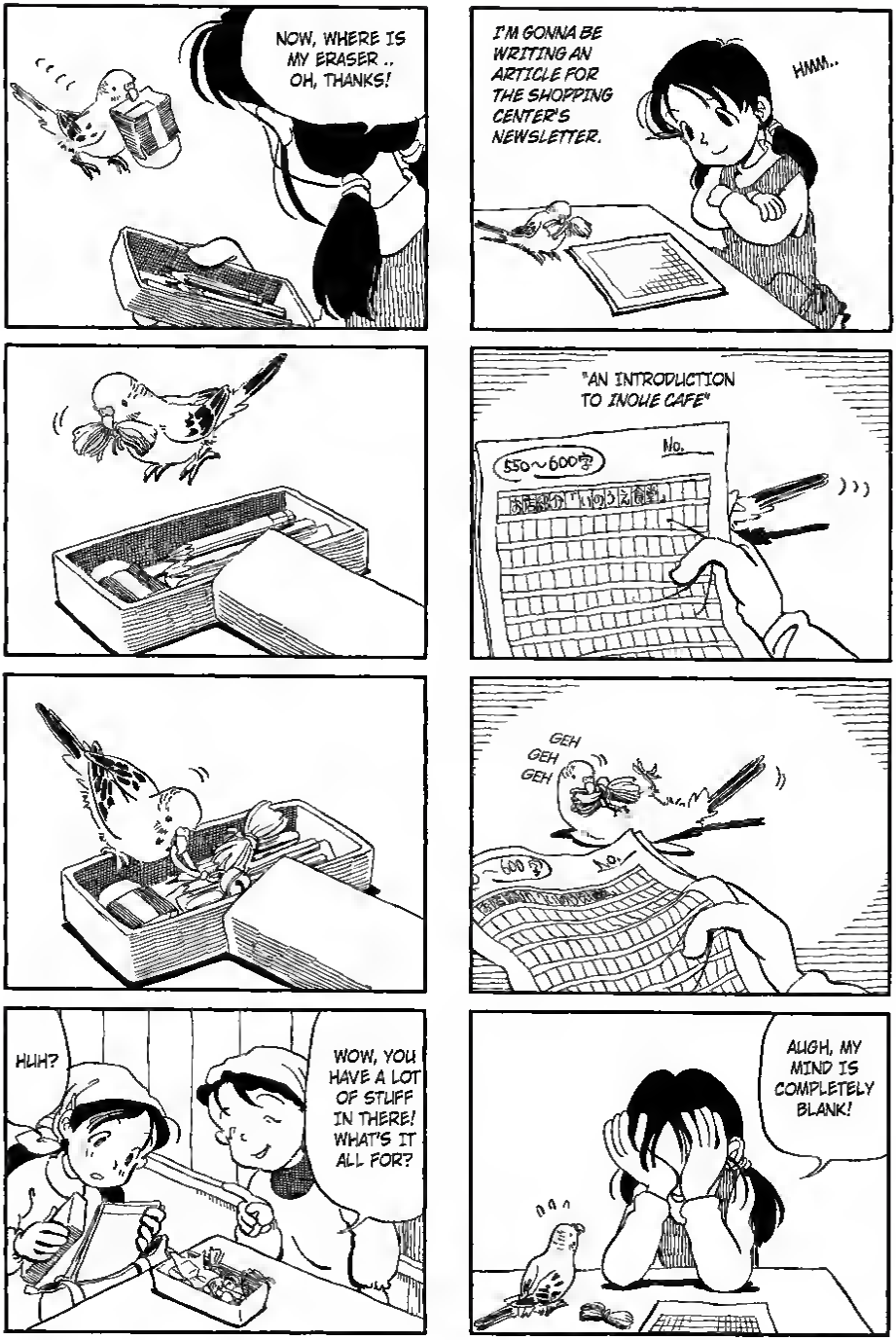
PART 7

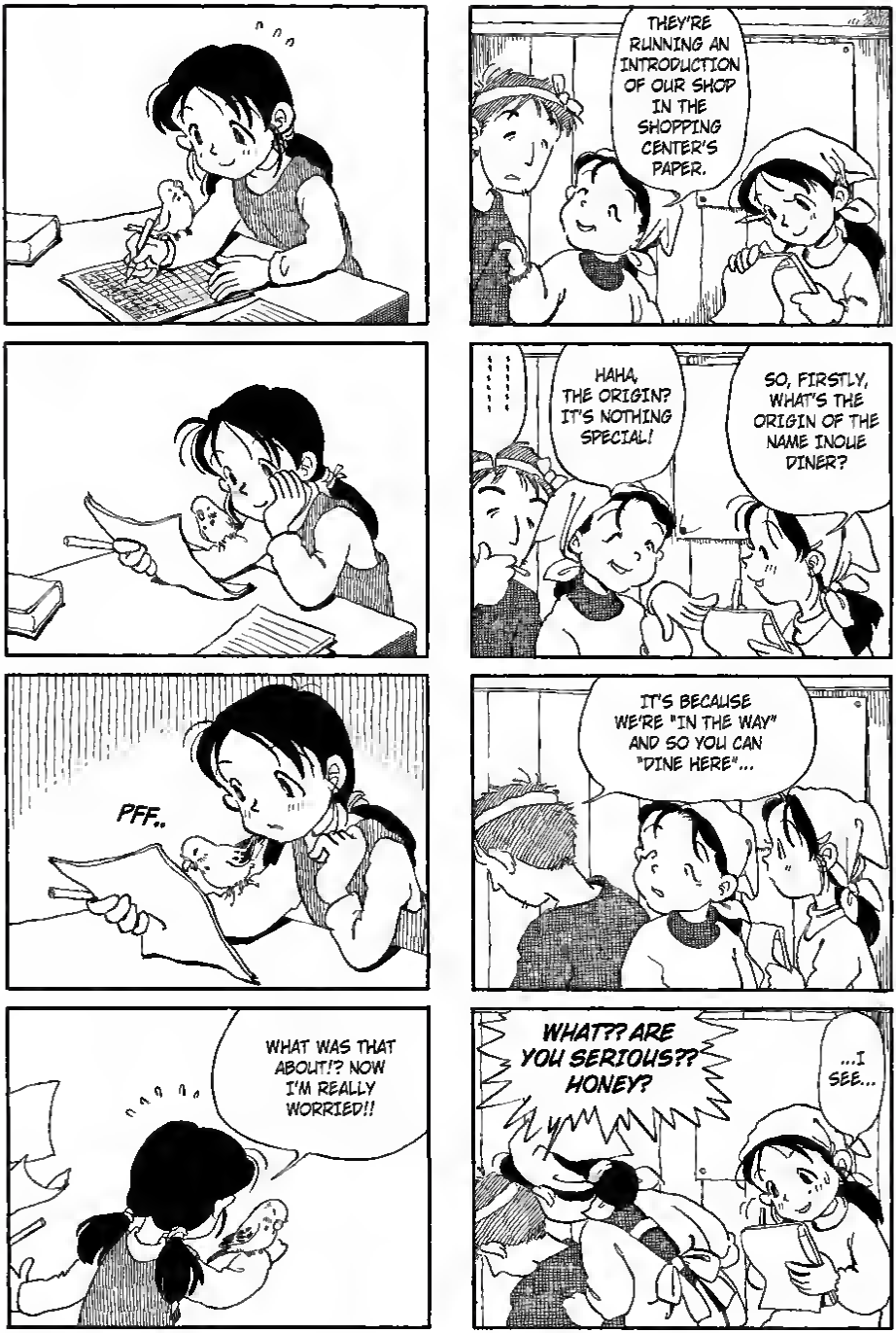

BELL
SAFETY PIN
SO IT DOESN'T CHOKE THEM, TIE KNOTS LIKE THIS.
I MADE ALL THESE DIFFERENT KINDS OF TOYS.
BEADS
BUNDLE OF KITESTRING


SHWOOP


GALLOP
GALLOP
GAL
LOP!
BUT THE THING HE WAS MOST INTERESTED IN WAS THE CELLOPHANE BAG I PUT THEM IN...

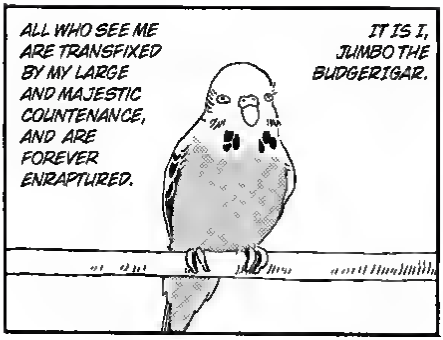


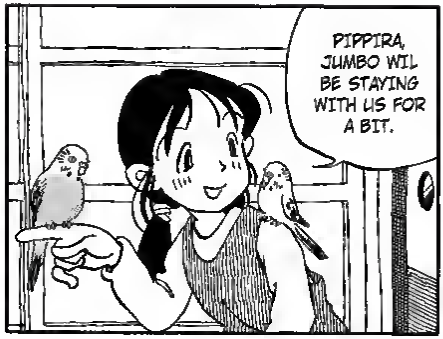

NOW, WHERE IS MY ERASER .. OH, THANKS!
I'M GONNA BE WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR THE SHOPPING CENTER'S NEWSLETTER.
HMM..
"AN INTRODUCTION TO INOUE CAFE"
No.
550~600円
GEH GEH GEH
HUH?
WOW, YOU HAVE A LOT OF STUFF IN THERE! WHAT'S IT ALL FOR?
AUGH, MY MIND IS COMPLETELY BLANK!

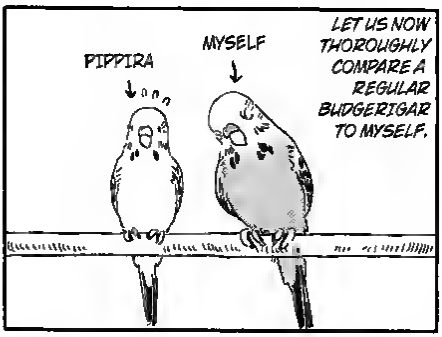

THEY'RE RUNNING AN INTRODUCTION OF OUR SHOP IN THE SHOPPING CENTER'S PAPER.
HAHA, THE ORIGIN? IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL!
SO, FIRSTLY, WHAT'S THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME INOUE DINER?
PFF..
IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE "IN THE WAY" AND SO YOU CAN "DINE HERE"...
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT!? NOW I'M REALLY WORRIED!!
WHAT?? ARE YOU SERIOUS?? HONEY?
...I SEE...

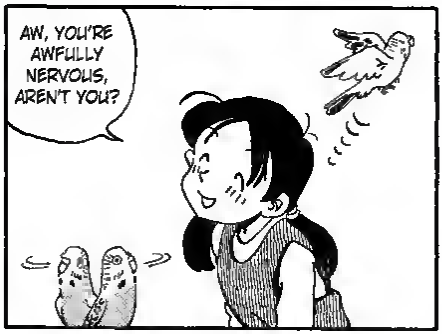
HRM.
I FINISHED WRITING OUR SHOP'S INTRO ARTICLE!
HOW BOUT SOME COCOA!
UNFORTUNATELY, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE QUITE DONE YET.
AWW..
ER-
I'LL ADD IN "WE ALSO HAVE A BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS YOU'VE GOTTA SEE."
AUGH, UHH... IT'S ME! I'M SORRY!
'SCUSE ME, IS THE BEAUTIFUL WAITRESS IN TODAY?
BUT THEN!
HEY, HEY, HEY!!!

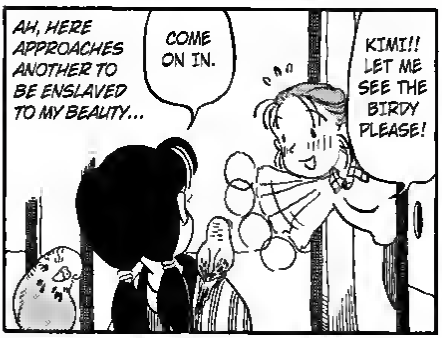
PART 8
I'M GOING ABROAD, SO I WANTED TO HAVE NEW YEAR'S SOBA AT HOME BEFORE I LEFT.
OH MY! WELL THEN, I'LL GIVE YOU AN EXTRA-LARGE PORTION!
OKAY KIMI, HERE YOU GO! THANKS A LOT!
YEP, LEAVE IT TO ME!
?
I-IT GOT SO BIG...
HE'S CALLED JUMBO BUDGIE. HE'S A DIFFERENT SPECIES THAT'S A BIT BIGGER THAN AVERAGE.

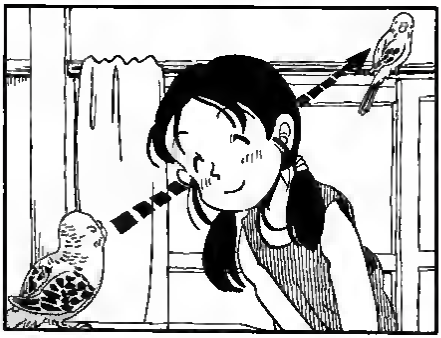

ALL WHO SEE ME ARE TRANSFIXED BY MY LARGE AND MAJESTIC COUNTENANCE, AND ARE FOREVER ENRAPTURED.
IT IS I, JUMBO THE BUDGERIGAR.

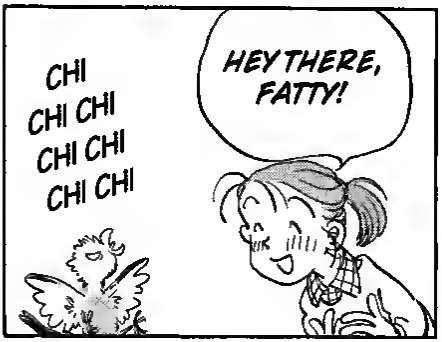

PIPPIRA, JUMBO WIL BE STAYING WITH US FOR A BIT.

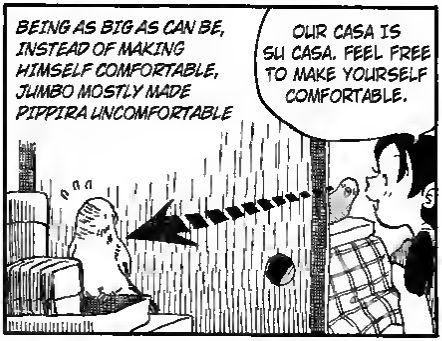

PIPPIRA
MYSELF
LET US NOW THOROUGHLY COMPARE A REGULAR BUDGERIGAR TO MYSELF.

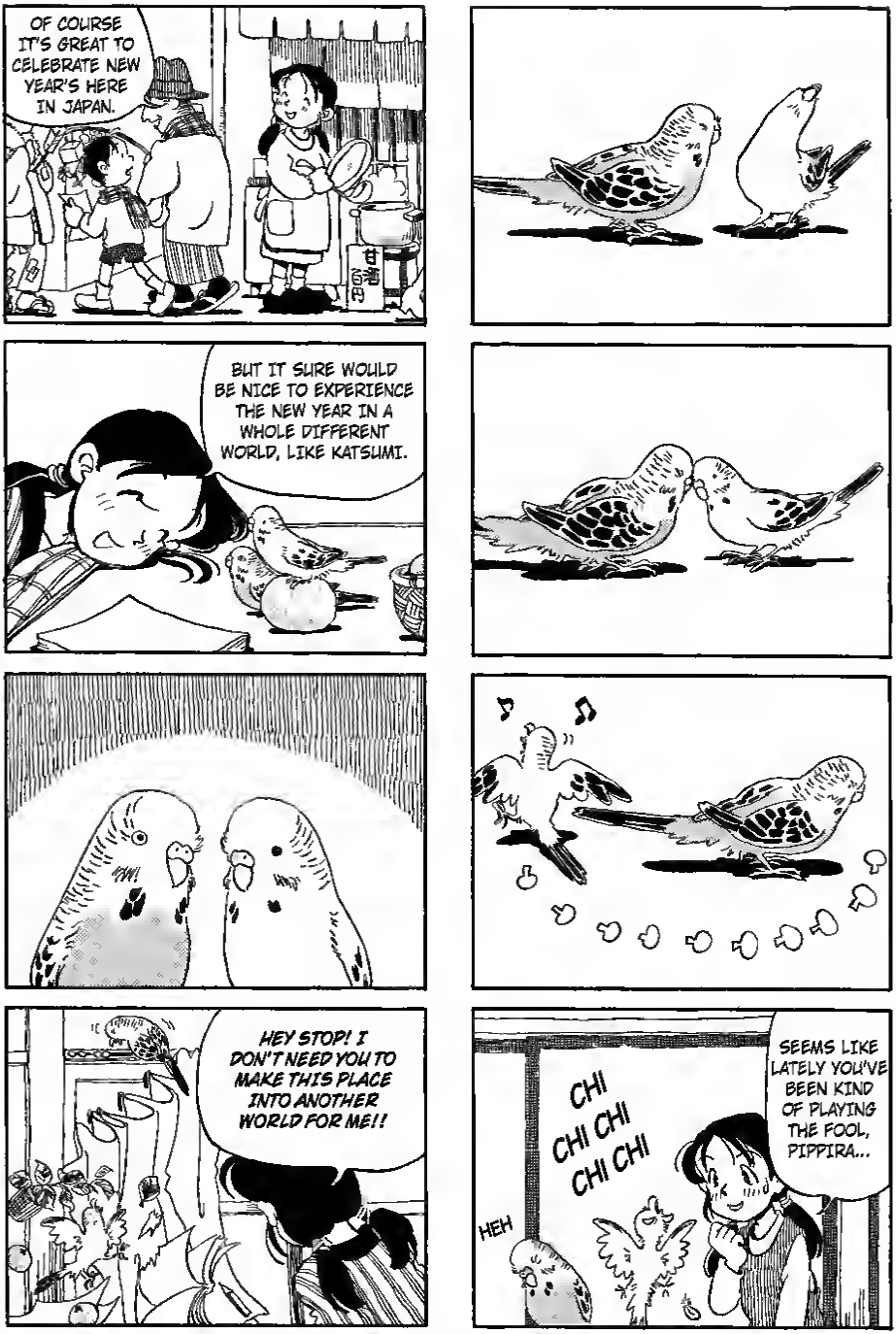

AW, YOU'RE AWFULLY NERVOUS, AREN'T YOU?

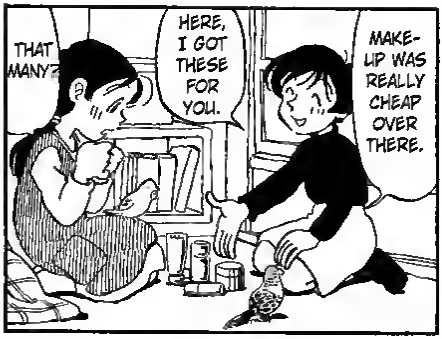

AH, HERE APPROACHES ANOTHER TO BE ENSLAVED TO MY BEAUTY...
COME ON IN.
KIMI!! LET ME SEE THE BIRDY PLEASE!



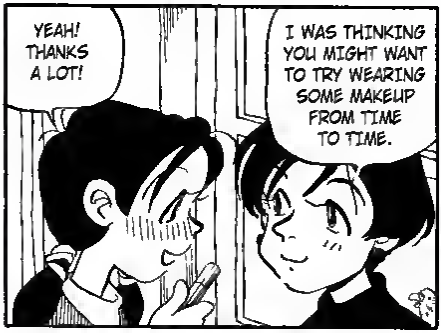

CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI
HEY THERE, FATTY!


BEING AS BIG AS CAN BE, INSTEAD OF MAKING HIMSELF COMFORTABLE, JUMBO MOSTLY MADE PIPPIRA UNCOMFORTABLE
OUR CASA IS SU CASA. FEEL FREE TO MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.

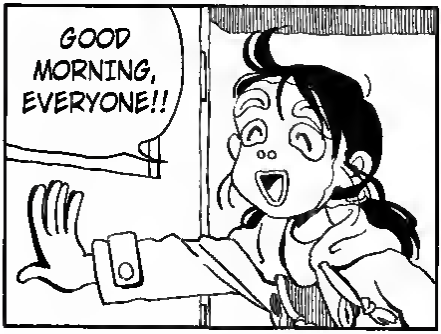

OF COURSE IT'S GREAT TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S HERE IN JAPAN.
BUT IT SURE WOULD BE NICE TO EXPERIENCE THE NEW YEAR IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD, LIKE KATSUMI.
HEY STOP! I DON'T NEED YOU TO MAKE THIS PLACE INTO ANOTHER WORLD FOR ME!!
CHI CHI CHI CHI
HEH
SEEMS LIKE LATELY YOU'VE BEEN KIND OF PLAYING THE FOOL, PIPPIRA...

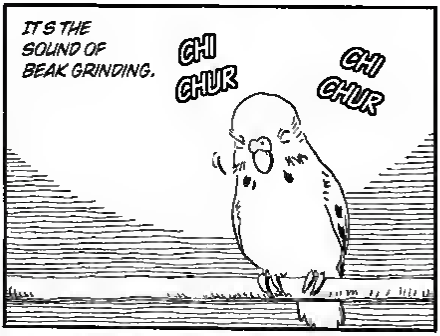

THAT MANY?
HERE, I GOT THESE FOR YOU.
MAKE-UP WAS REALLY CHEAP OVER THERE.

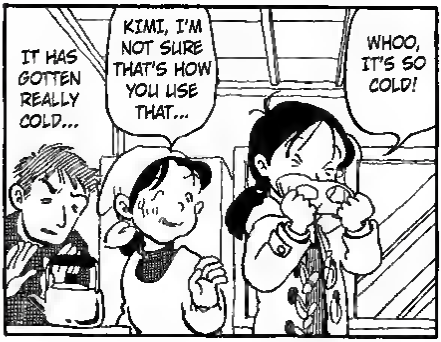
WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS SOUND IS?
CHI CHUR
CHI CHUR

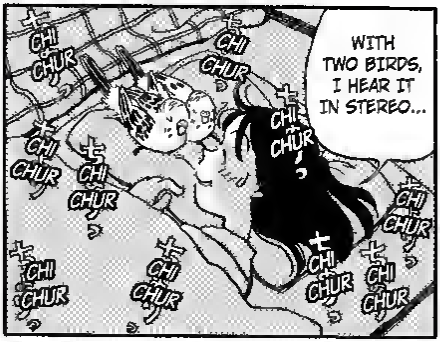

YEAH! THANKS A LOT!
I WAS THINKING YOU MIGHT WANT TO TRY WEARING SOME MAKEUP FROM TIME TO TIME.

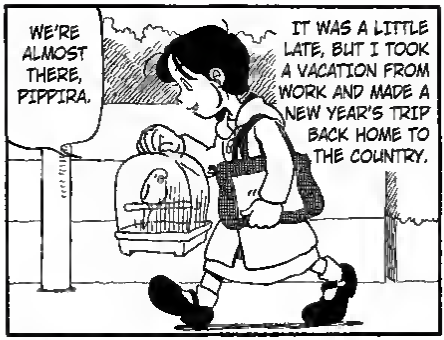
CHI CHUR
CHI CHUR

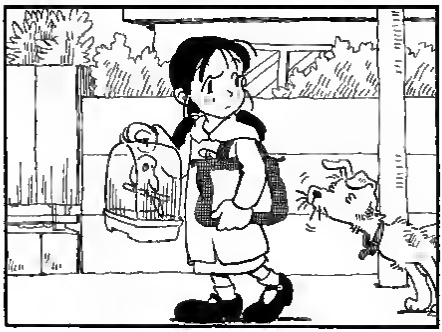

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE!!

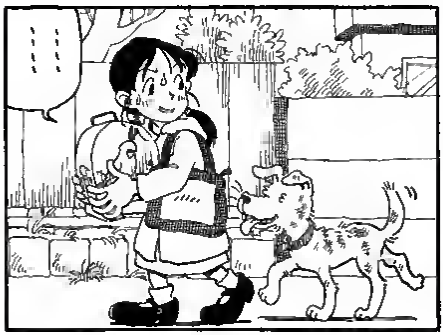

IT'S THE SOUND OF BEAK GRINDING.
CHI CHUR
CHI CHUR

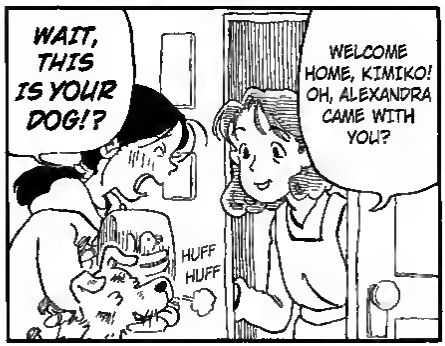

IT HAS GOTTEN REALLY COLD...
KIMI, I'M NOT SURE THAT'S HOW YOU USE THAT...
WHOO, IT'S SO COLD!

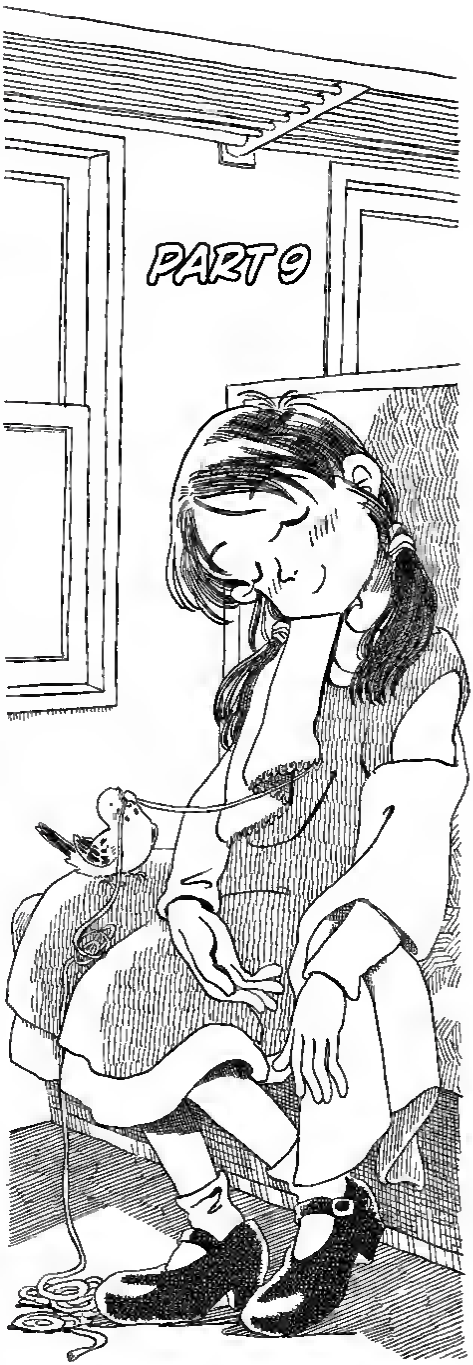

CHI CHUR
WITH TWO BIRDS, I HEAR IT IN STEREO...

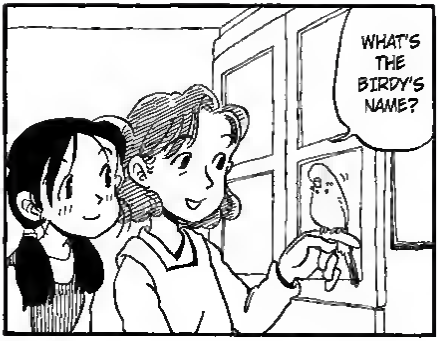

WE'RE ALMOST THERE, PIPPIRA.
IT WAS A LITTLE LATE, BUT I TOOK A VACATION FROM WORK AND MADE A NEW YEAR'S TRIP BACK HOME TO THE COUNTRY.

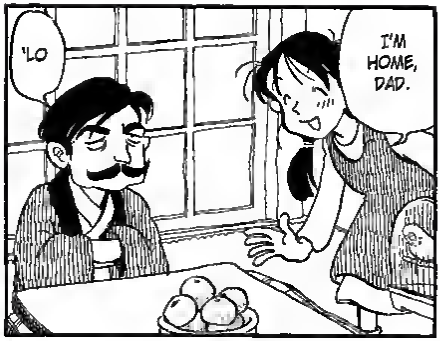


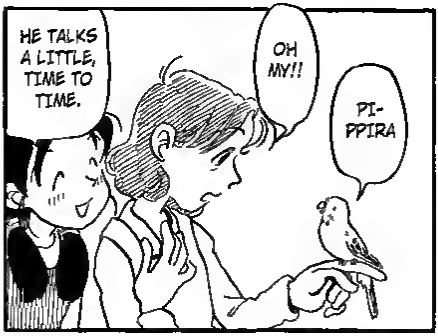

. . .

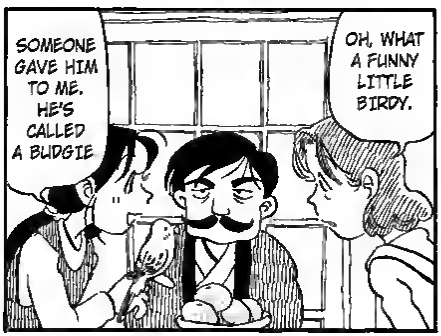

WAIT, THIS IS YOUR DOG!?
WELCOME HOME, KIMIKO! OH, ALEXANDRA CAME WITH YOU?
HUFF HUFF

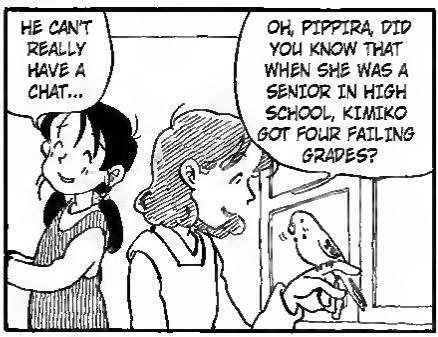

PART 9

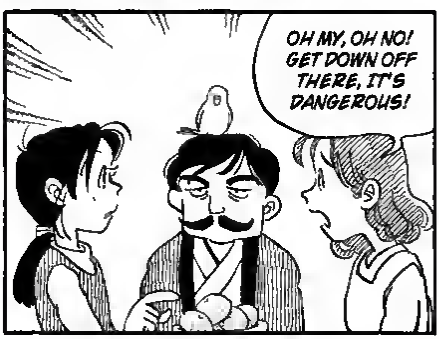

WHAT'S THE BIRDY'S NAME?

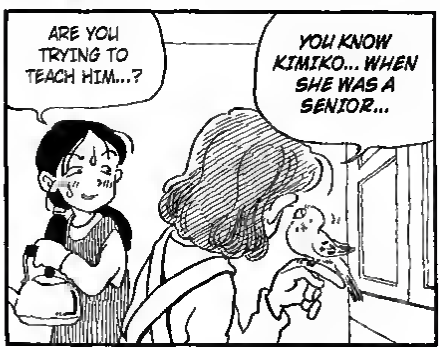

'LO
I'M HOME, DAD.

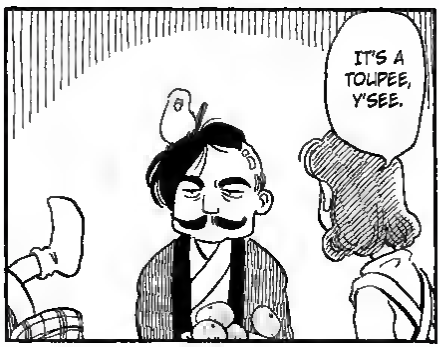

HE TALKS A LITTLE, TIME TO TIME.
OH MY!!
PI-PPIRA


SOMEONE GAVE HIM TO ME. HE'S CALLED A BUDGIE
OH, WHAT A FUNNY LITTLE BIRDY.

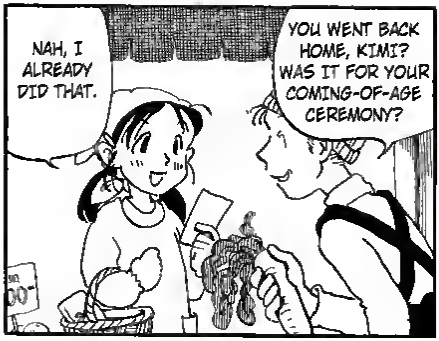

HE CAN'T REALLY HAVE A CHAT...
OH, PIPPIRA, DID YOU KNOW THAT WHEN SHE WAS A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL, KIMIKO GOT FOUR FAILING GRADES?


OH MY, OH NO! GET DOWN OFF THERE, IT'S DANGEROUS!

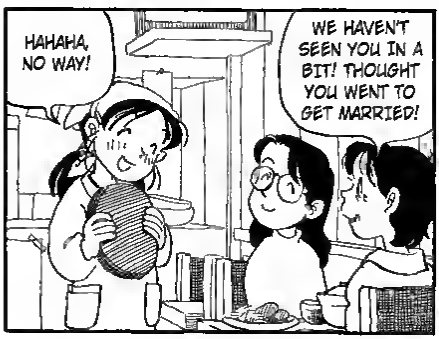

ARE YOU TRYING TO TEACH HIM...?
YOU KNOW KIMIKO... WHEN SHE WAS A SENIOR...

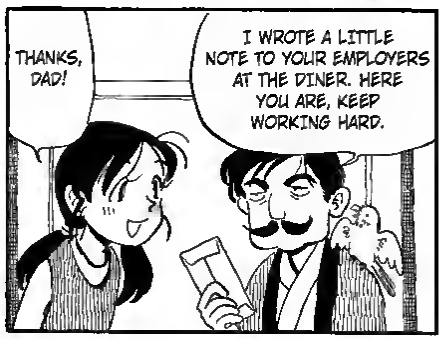

IT'S A TOUPEE, Y'SEE.

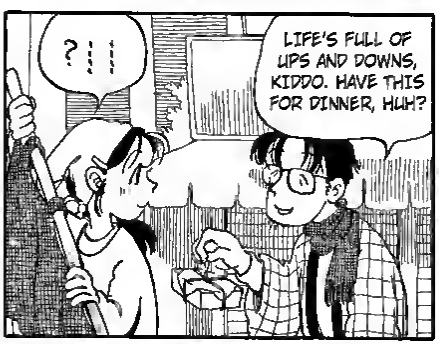
HEY LET'S GET A BIRDY, TOO!
PIPPIRA IS SO GREAT!
MOM
DAD
ALEXANDRA
THEY COME IN LOTS OF COLORS, TOO!
HRM..
AND THEY CAN TALK...
THEY DANCE..
MY LITTLE BRO AND SIS.
WEL-COME BACK!
WEL-COME BACK, KIMI!
MY BIG BROTHER AND HIS WIFE.
AH, YOU BROUGHT YOUR BIRDY?
OH, KIMIKO'S BACK?
DADDY SAYS ABSOLUTELY NOT.
THEY'RE SURPRIS-INGLY STRONG, TOO...
IF YOU TELL HIM ANY MORE, HIS HEAD'LL POP OFF!!
AND HERE'S MY OLDER SISTERS AND MY GRANDPA AND...


NAH, I ALREADY DID THAT.
YOU WENT BACK HOME, KIMI? WAS IT FOR YOUR COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY?

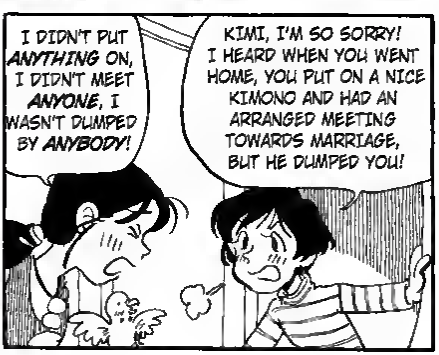
AH YES, KIMIKO...

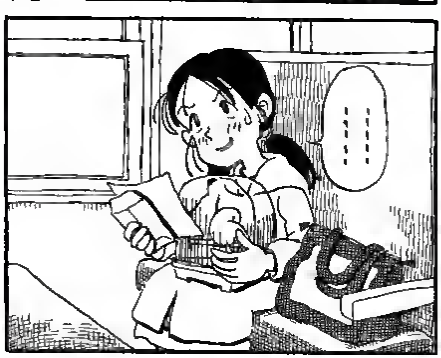

HAHAHA, NO WAY!
WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A BIT! THOUGHT YOU WENT TO GET MARRIED!

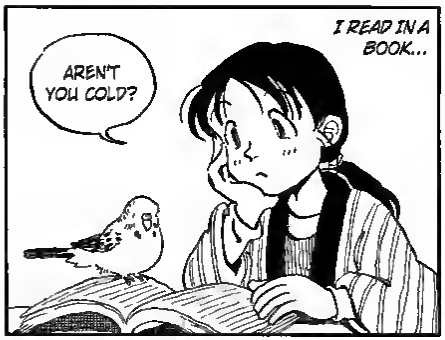

THANKS, DAD!
I WROTE A LITTLE NOTE TO YOUR EMPLOYERS AT THE DINER. HERE YOU ARE, KEEP WORKING HARD.

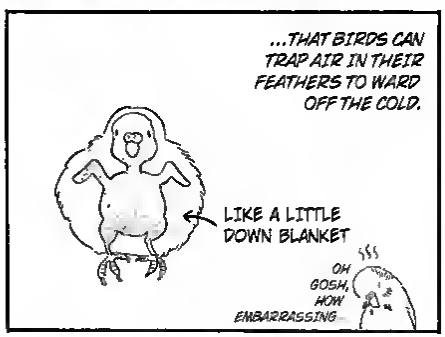

?!!!
LIFE'S FULL OF UPS AND DOWNS, KIDDO. HAVE THIS FOR DINNER, HUH?

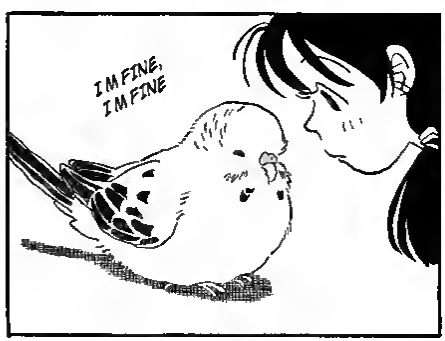
DEAR OWNERS OF INOUE DINER, ☆
THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO FOR US
KEEP TAKING GOOD CARE OF OUR KIMIKO
4-EVER!
FROM KIMIKO → TAMAMURA'S DAD

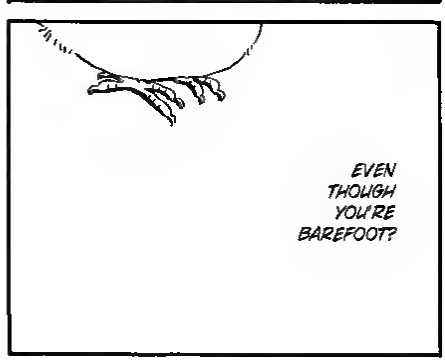

I DIDN'T PUT ANYTHING ON, I DIDN'T MEET ANYONE, I WASN'T DUMPED BY ANYBODY!
KIMI, I'M SO SORRY! I HEARD WHEN YOU WENT HOME, YOU PUT ON A NICE KIMONO AND HAD AN ARRANGED MEETING TOWARDS MARRIAGE, BUT HE DUMPED YOU!


!!!

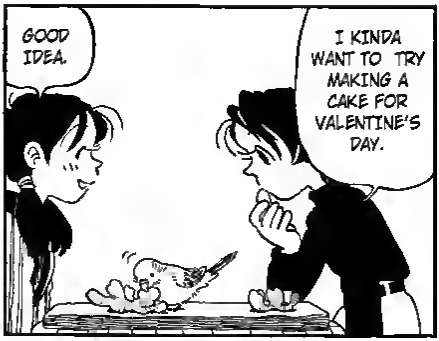

I READ IN A BOOK...
AREN'T YOU COLD?

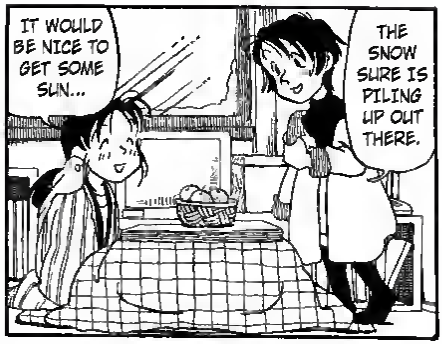

...THAT BIRDS CAN TRAP AIR IN THEIR FEATHERS TO WARD OFF THE COLD.
LIKE A LITTLE DOWN BLANKET
OH GOSH, HOW EMBARRASSING

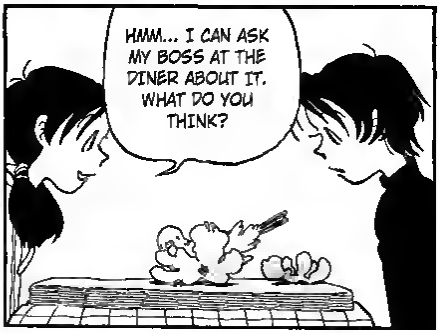

I'M FINE, I'M FINE

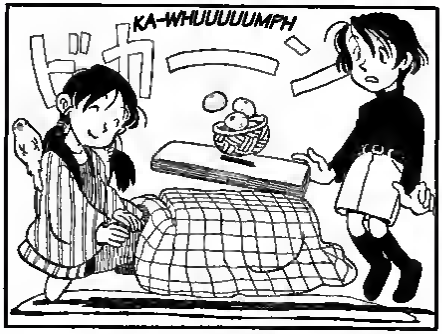

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE BAREFOOT?

PART 10

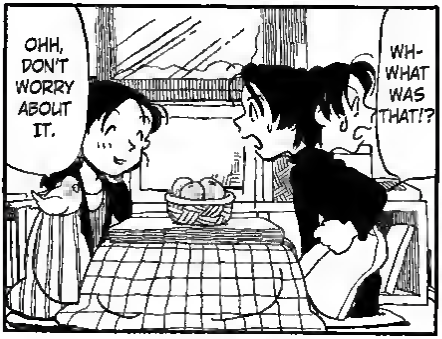

GOOD IDEA.
I KINDA WANT TO TRY MAKING A CAKE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.

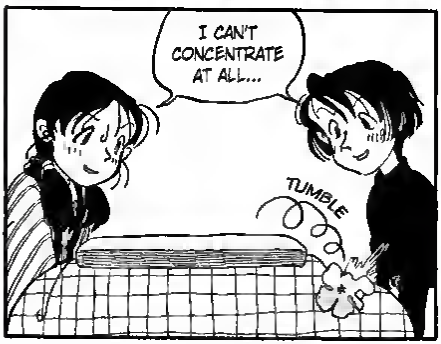

IT WOULD BE NICE TO GET SOME SUN...
THE SNOW SURE IS PILING UP OUT THERE.


HMM... I CAN ASK MY BOSS AT THE DINER ABOUT IT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?


KA-WHUUUUUMPH

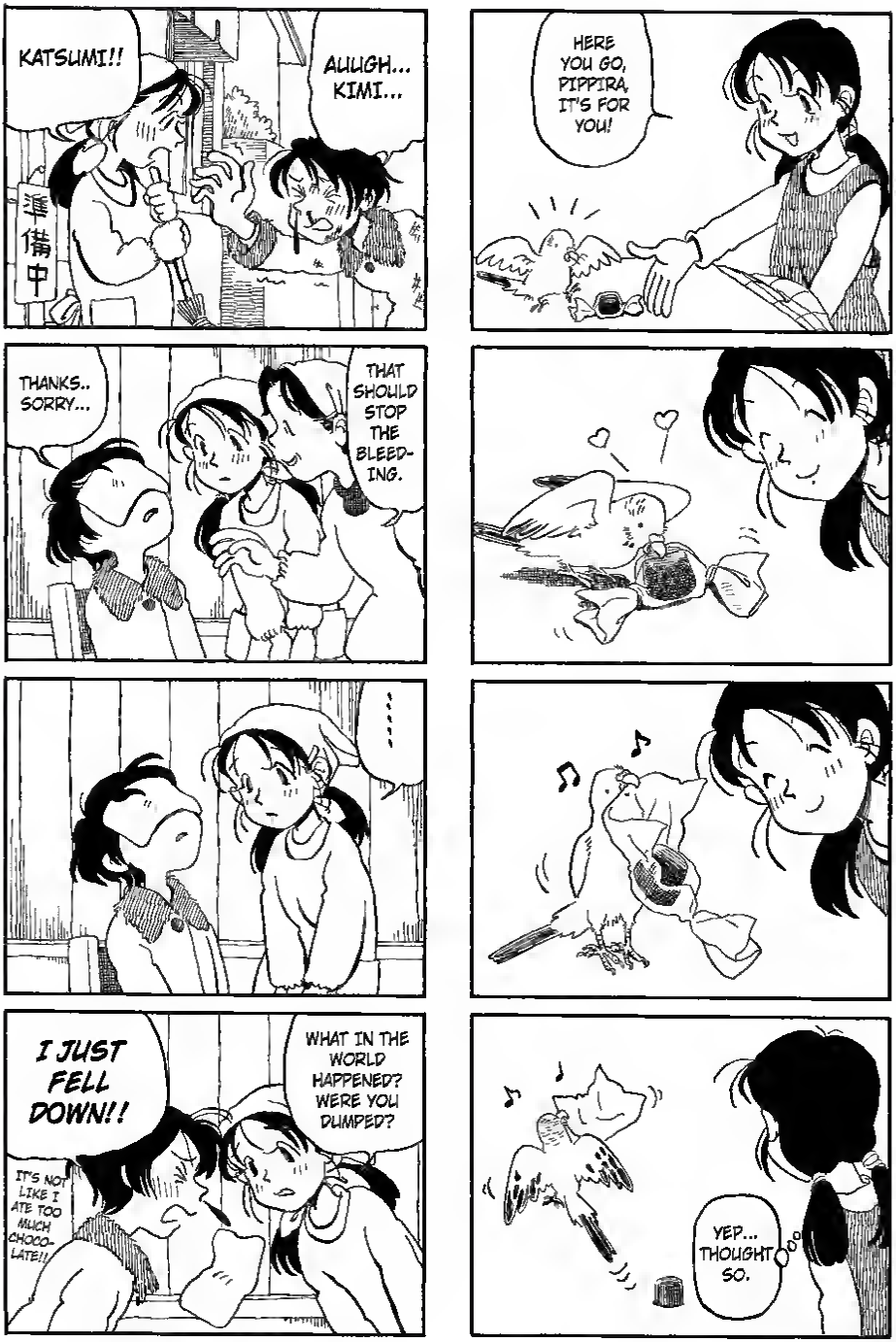
MAYBE HE CAN TEACH US HOW TO MAKE SOMETHING...


OHH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WH-WHAT WAS THAT!?

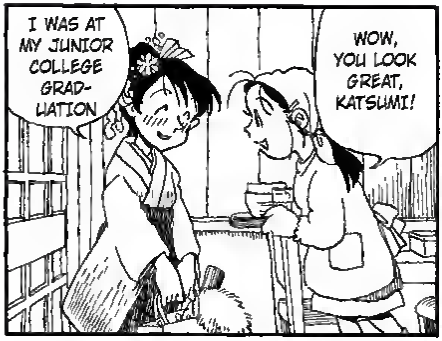

I CAN'T CONCENTRATE AT ALL...
TUMBLE

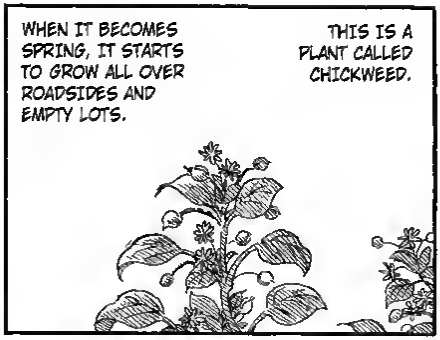
KIND OF A RICKETY OLD PLACE
KA-WHU
IT'S JUST THE SNOW FALLING DOWN OFF THE ROOF, Y'SEE.
MPH

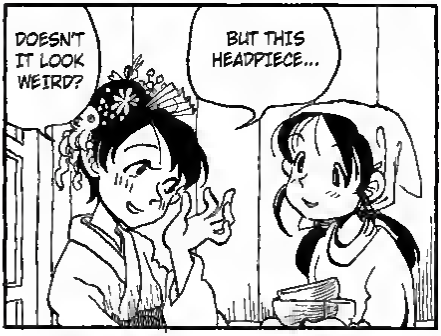
HUH?
OH, KIMI, WHO'RE YOU GONNA GIVE YOUR CAKE TO?
I'M REALLY NO GOOD MAKING CAKES...
UH, HOW TO MAKE CAKE, HUH?
ISN'T THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?
WOW! THAT WOULD BE GREAT!
I GUESS THE BEST I COULD DO IS A STRAWBERRY SHORT...
AW, GEE HAHAHA...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYONE! I'M JEALOUS OF YOU KATSUMI!
...A STRAWBERRY SHORTSTOP
HONEY, YOU CAN'T GET DOWN OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
AHHH, NO WAY!
AND THEN THIS REALLY CUTE GUEST CAME...
I THOUGHT YOU'D PULL SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

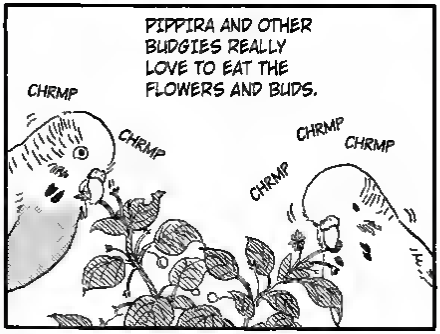

KATSUMI!!
AUUGH... KIMI...
準備中
HERE YOU GO, PIPPIRA, IT'S FOR YOU!
THANKS.. SORRY...
THAT SHOULD STOP THE BLEED-ING.
.....
I JUST FELL DOWN!!
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED? WERE YOU DUMPED?
IT'S NOT LIKE I ATE TOO MUCH CHOCO-LATE!!
YEP... THOUGHT SO.

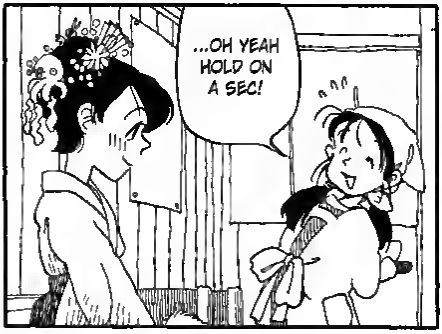
PART 11
WOW, HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU, PIPPIRA.
YOU BOTH HAVE LONG UNDERWEAR ON...
CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI

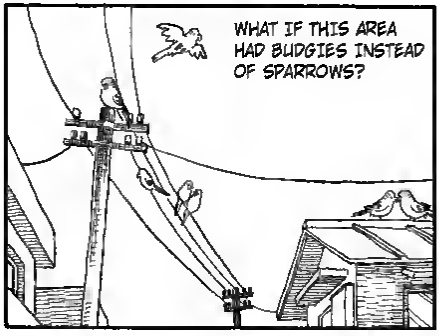

I WAS AT MY JUNIOR COLLEGE GRAD-UATION.
WOW, YOU LOOK GREAT, KATSUMI!

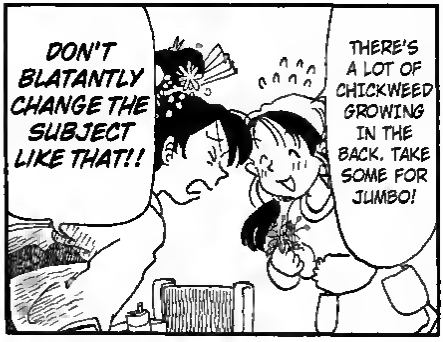

WHEN IT BECOMES SPRING, IT STARTS TO GROW ALL OVER ROADSIDES AND EMPTY LOTS.
THIS IS A PLANT CALLED CHICKWEED.

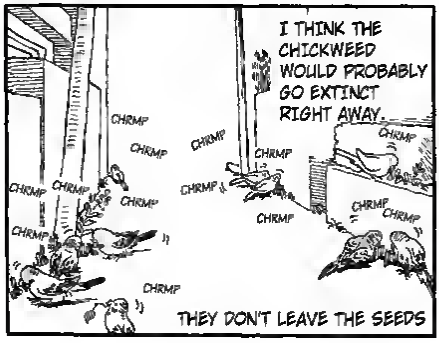

DOESN'T IT LOOK WEIRD?
BUT THIS HEADPIECE...

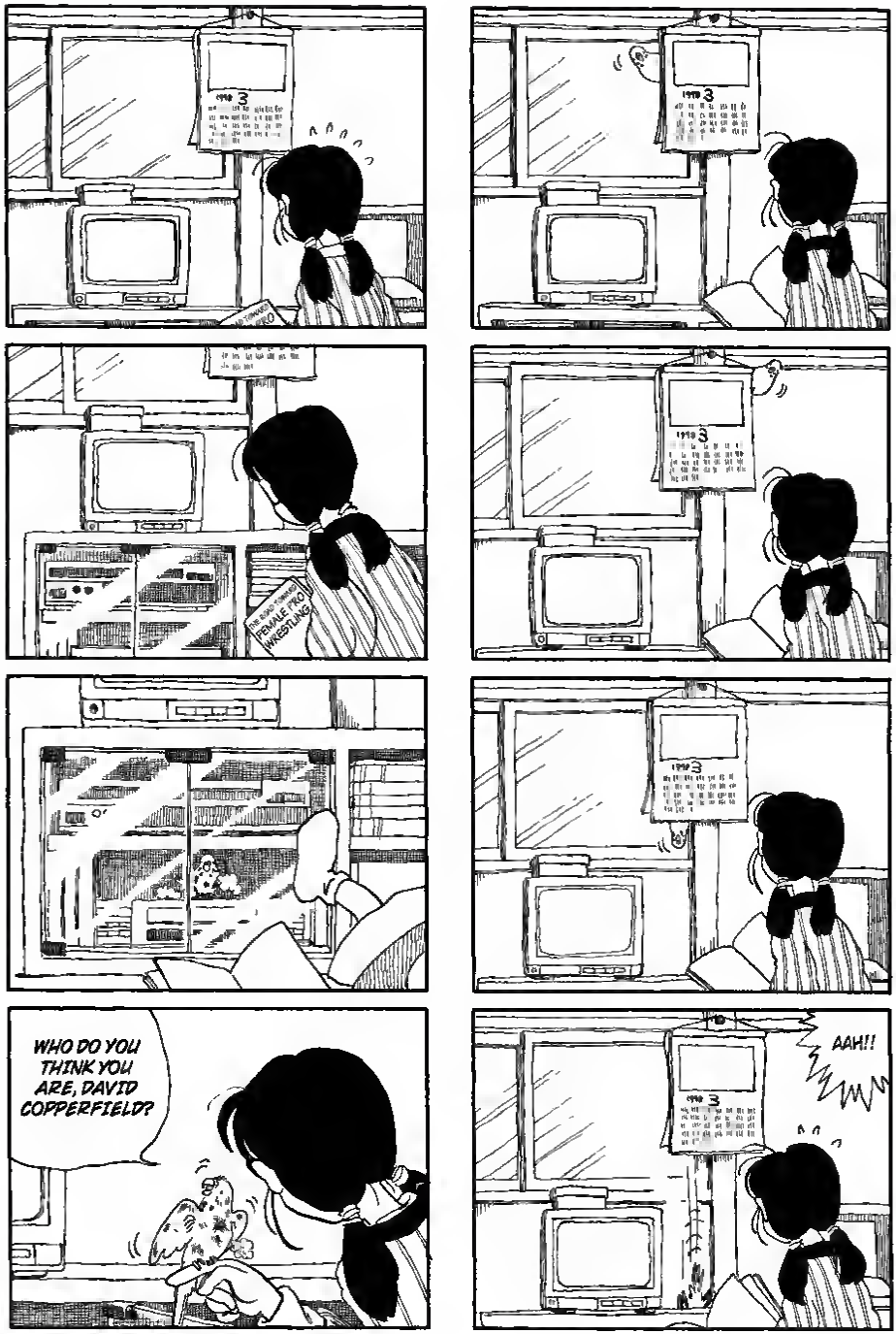

PIPPIRA AND OTHER BUDGIES REALLY LOVE TO EAT THE FLOWERS AND BUDS.
CHRMP
CHRMP
CHRMP
CHRMP
CHRMP


...OH YEAH HOLD ON A SEC!

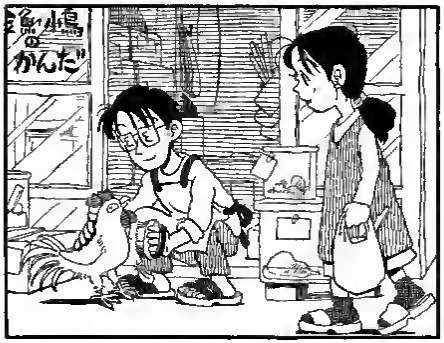

WHAT IF THIS AREA HAD BUDGIES INSTEAD OF SPARROWS?

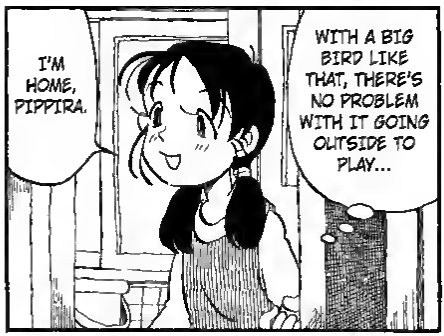

DON'T BLATANTLY CHANGE THE SUBJECT LIKE THAT!!
THERE'S A LOT OF CHICKWEED GROWING IN THE BACK. TAKE SOME FOR JUMBO!

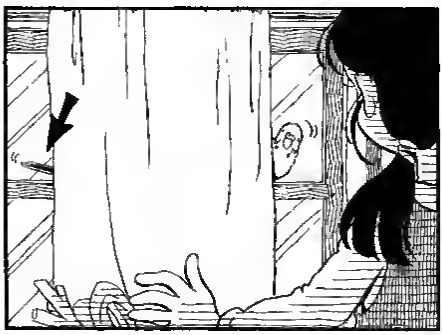

I THINK THE CHICKWEED WOULD PROBABLY GO EXTINCT RIGHT AWAY.
CHRMP
THEY DON'T LEAVE THE SEEDS

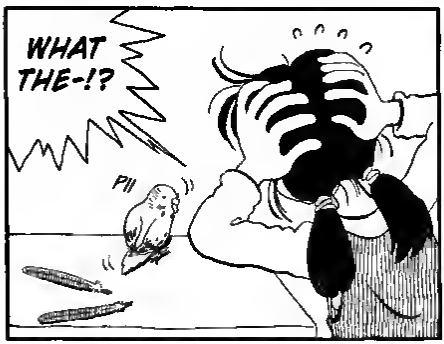

1998 3
1998 3
1998 3
THE BAD TIMES
FEMALE PRO
WRESTLING
1998 3
1998 3
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, DAVID COPPERFIELD?
AAH!!

*THE SOUND OF MONKS CHANTING THE LOTUS SUTRA.

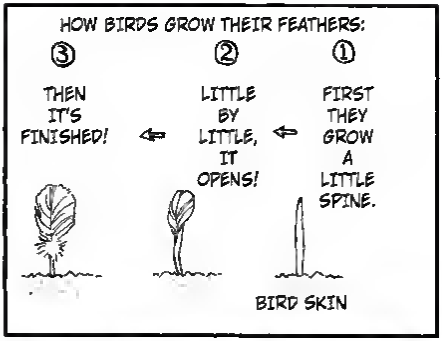

小鳥の
かんた"

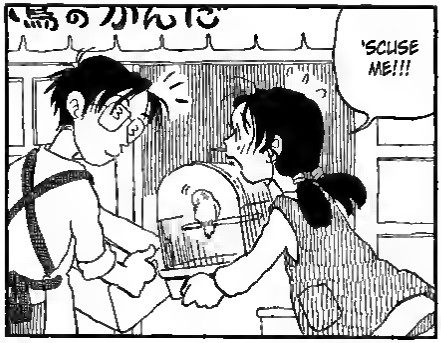

I'M HOME, PIPPIRA.
WITH A BIG BIRD LIKE THAT, THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH IT GOING OUTSIDE TO PLAY...

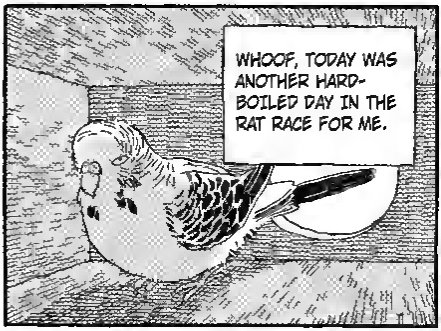


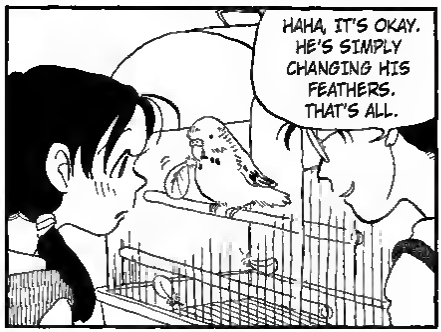

WHAT THE-!?
PII

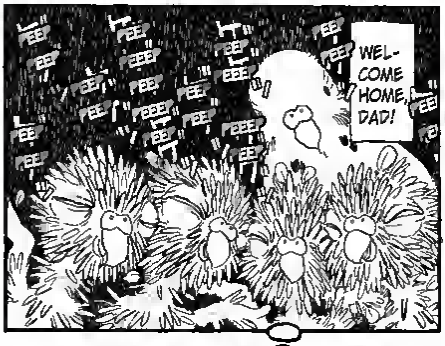
PART 12

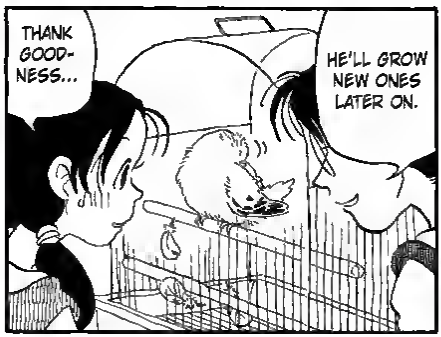

HOW BIRDS GROW THEIR FEATHERS:
③
THEN IT'S FINISHED!
②
LITTLE BY LITTLE, IT OPENS!
①
FIRST THEY GROW A LITTLE SPINE.
BIRD SKIN

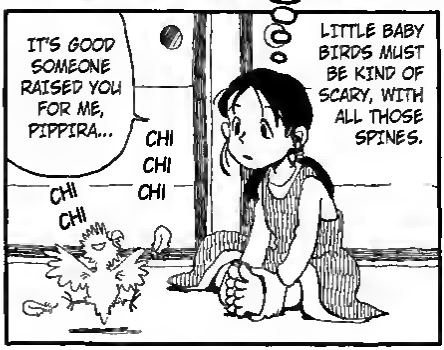

'SCUSE ME!!!

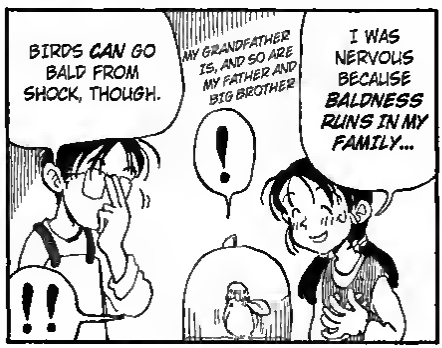

WHOOF, TODAY WAS ANOTHER HARD-BOILED DAY IN THE RAT RACE FOR ME.

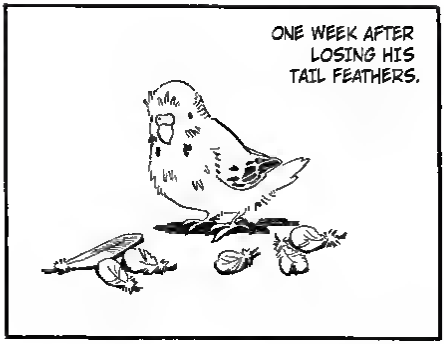

HAHA, IT'S OKAY. HE'S SIMPLY CHANGING HIS FEATHERS. THAT'S ALL.

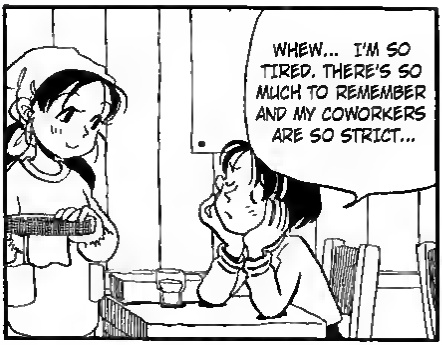

WELCOME HOME, DAD!

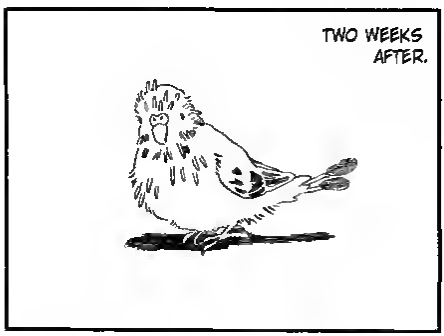

THANK GOODNESS...
HE'LL GROW NEW ONES LATER ON.

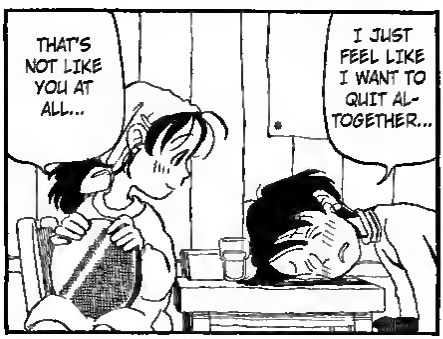

IT'S GOOD SOMEONE RAISED YOU FOR ME, PIPPIRA...
CHI CHI CHI
CHI CHI
LITTLE BABY BIRDS MUST BE KIND OF SCARY, WITH ALL THOSE SPINES.

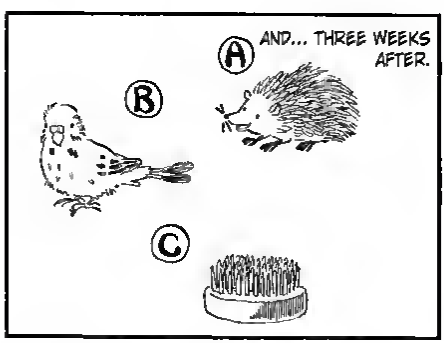

BIRDS CAN GO BALD FROM SHOCK, THOUGH.
!!
MY GRANDFATHER IS, AND SO ARE MY FATHER AND BIG BROTHER
!
I WAS NERVOUS BECAUSE BALDNESS RUNS IN MY FAMILY...

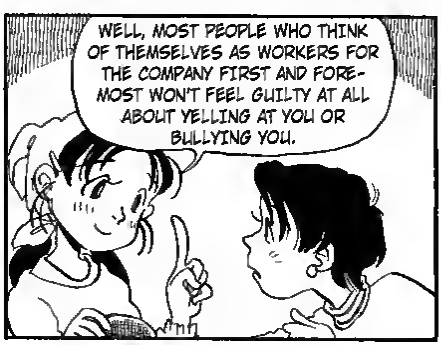

ONE WEEK AFTER LOSING HIS TAIL FEATHERS.

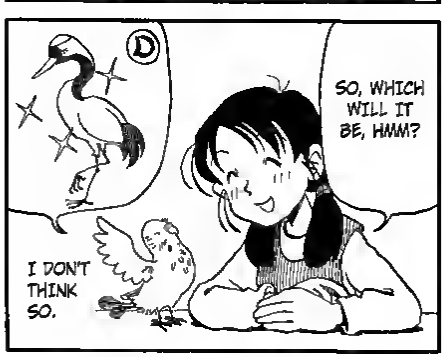

WHEW... I'M SO TIRED. THERE'S SO MUCH TO REMEMBER AND MY COWORKERS ARE SO STRICT...

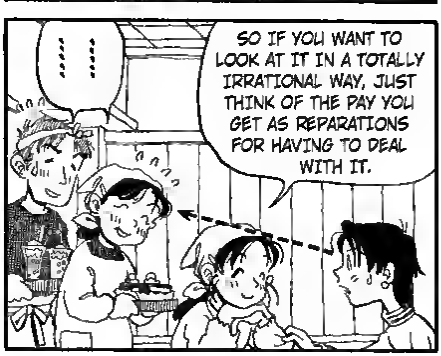

TWO WEEKS AFTER.


THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL...
I JUST FEEL LIKE I WANT TO QUIT AL-TOGETHER...

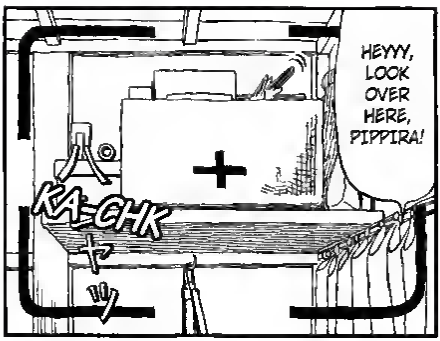

AND... THREE WEEKS AFTER.
A
B
C

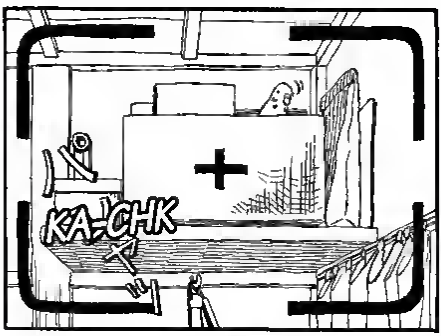

WELL, MOST PEOPLE WHO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS WORKERS FOR THE COMPANY FIRST AND FOREMOST WON'T FEEL GUILTY AT ALL ABOUT YELLING AT YOU OR BULLYING YOU.

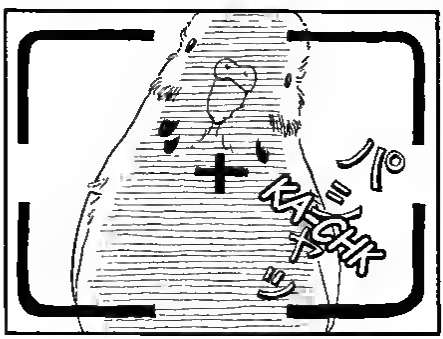

D
SO, WHICH WILL IT BE, HMM?
I DON'T THINK SO.

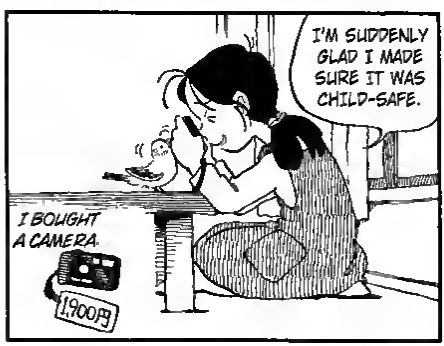

SO IF YOU WANT TO LOOK AT IT IN A TOTALLY IRRATIONAL WAY, JUST THINK OF THE PAY YOU GET AS REPARATIONS FOR HAVING TO DEAL WITH IT.

OH, WELCOME!
SUP.
THIS GUY'S ONE OF MY SUPERIORS AT WORK, KIMI.
GREAT, THANKS TO YOU!
金魚小鳥のかん
HOW'S LITTLE PIPPIRA DOING?
I'M GLAD YOU'RE GETTING ALONG, KATSUMI.
OH, AM I?
OH, HEY YOU'RE DRIBBLING.
OH!
HEH HEH HEH
IF ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS, FEEL FREE TO ASK ME!
PAF PAF
HAHAHA! OH, YOU.
WHY THIS GUY SEEMS SO FAMILIAR TO ME...
SOMEHOW, I JUST REALIZED...
OH COME ON! ARE YOU HER SUPERIOR OR AREN'T YOU!?
C'MON, LET'S GET MOVING!
THANKS FOR TREATING!
LATER...!
HEH HEH HEH
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE MY PARENTS' DOG!
BUDUMP BUDUMP


HEYYY, LOOK OVER HERE, PIPPIRA!
KA-CHK

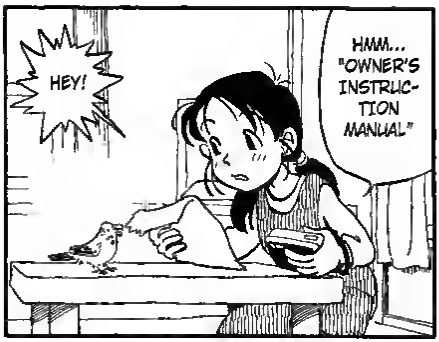

KA-CHK

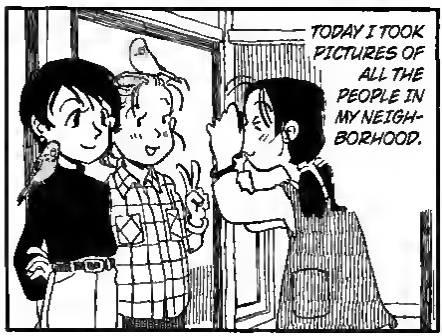

KA-CHK

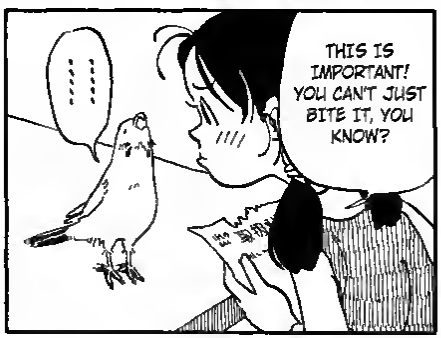

I'M SUDDENLY GLAD I MADE SURE IT WAS CHILD-SAFE.
I BOUGHT A CAMERA.
1,900円

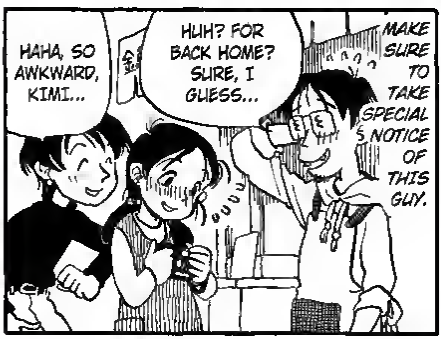
PART 13

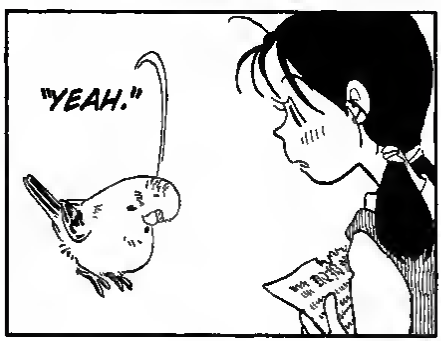
HI, EVERYONE. HOPE YOU'RE ALL DOING WELL...

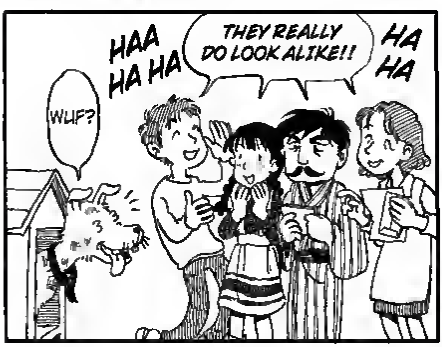

HEY!
HMM... "OWNER'S INSTRUC-TION MANUAL"


TODAY I TOOK PICTURES OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN MY NEIGH-BORHOOD.


!!!!
THIS IS IMPORTANT! YOU CAN'T JUST BITE IT, YOU KNOW?


HAHA, SO AWKWARD, KIMI...
HUH? FOR BACK HOME? SURE, I GUESS...
MAKE SURE TO TAKE SPECIAL NOTICE OF THIS GUY.


"YEAH."


HAA HA HA
THEY REALLY DO LOOK ALIKE!!
HA HA
WUF?

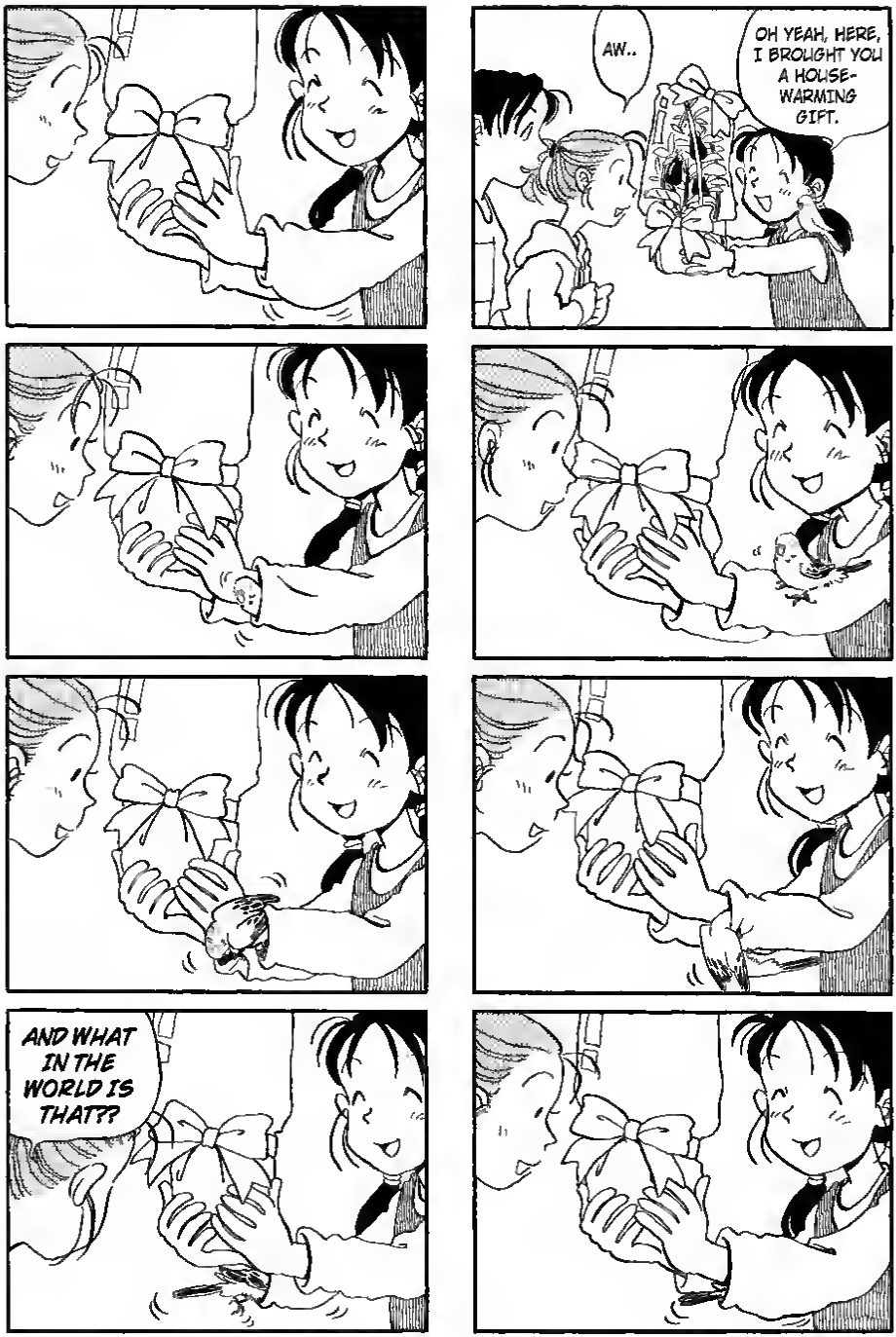
SHAKITY SHAKE SHAKE
...OF COURSE, IT WAS REALLY JUST HIM DANCING LIKE USUAL.
—THOUGHT SO.

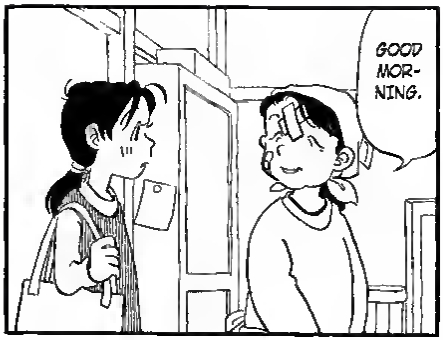
I USED TO HAVE SOME JAVA SPARROWS BACK IN THE DAY.
LOOK, LOOK! YOU TAKE SUCH A CUTE PICTURE.
HEH HEH HEH
I HAD THREE OF THEM, AND THEY KEPT PECKING AT THE MOLE ON MY FACE!
RIPPP SHRIPP
BUT NOW... HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY MOLES...
SO...THEY PLUCKED THEM ALL OFF?
PII? DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE DESTROYED ALL THE EVIDENCE??
PII?

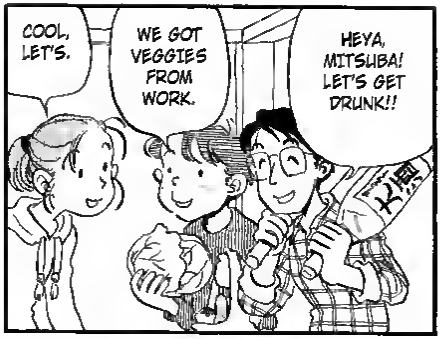
..HIS NAME IS SHINA-YOSHI.
THE GUY FROM THE BIRD SHOP...
WA HA HA
A HA HA HA
HA
HE'S SO NICE... I THINK I KIND OF LIKE HIM A LITTLE.
PFFAHA
WAHAHA
HA HA
FFF
AT THIS, PIPPIRA...
PIPPIRA FALLS OVER
PIPPIRA PICKING HIS NOSE
PIPPIRA GETS CAUGHT IN THE
SHAKE-A-SHAKE
...DID A LITTLE PRIVATE DANCE.
SHH, CALM DOWN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT! THEY WERE VERY POPULAR...
RIPPP
SHRIPP

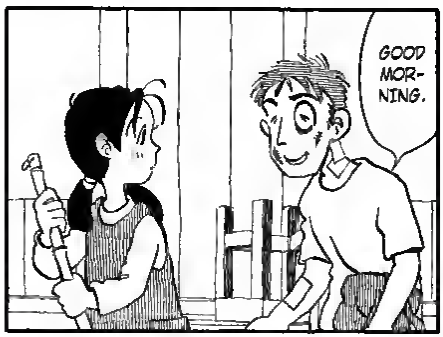
PART 14
八百ねぎ
800 SCALLIONS
WOW, COOL!
I MOVED IN WITH MY BOYFRIEND, SO YOU SHOULD COME BY WITH PIPPIRA TO HANG OUT!
OH YEAH, I SHOULD PROBABLY BRING THEM SOMETHING FOR THE HOUSE.
NARM NARM
UH... UH HUH.
FLOWER AND GRASS
花と緑
FLOWER SHOP
花屋
COME AGAIN!
AN EGG-PLANT EVEN THOUGH SHE WORKS AT A VEGETABLE STAND

O-OKAY....
AW, HE CAME ALL THIS WAY, LET HIM PERCH ON YOU.
HEY, WELCOME KIMI, COME ON IN.
HI THERE!
HUH?
HAHA, WELL A BIRD THIS SMALL SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM....
OH YEAH, YOU'RE NOT A FAN OF BIRDS, ARE YOU?
AHHH, HA HA... WHOA....
I'M SCARED.
AAAAUUUGHHH HEEERGHHH WAAAAAAAHH!!!
I'M SCARED.

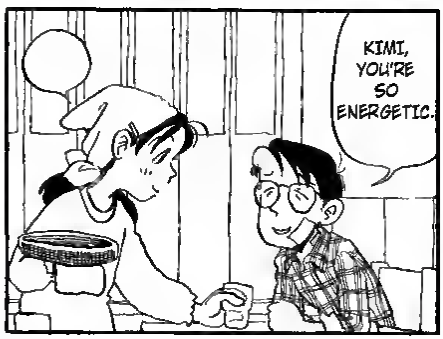

AW..
OH YEAH, HERE, I BROUGHT YOU A HOUSE-WARMING GIFT.
AND WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT??

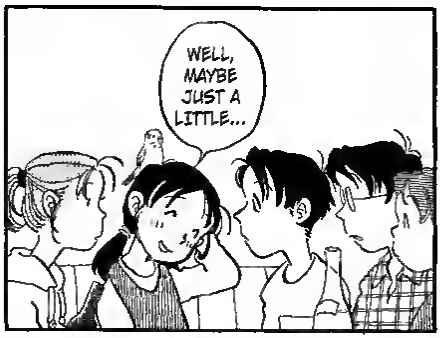

GOOD MORNING.

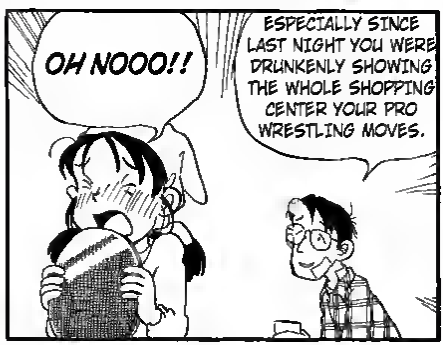

HEYA, MITSUBA! LET'S GET DRUNK!!
WE GOT VEGGIES FROM WORK.
COOL, LET'S.

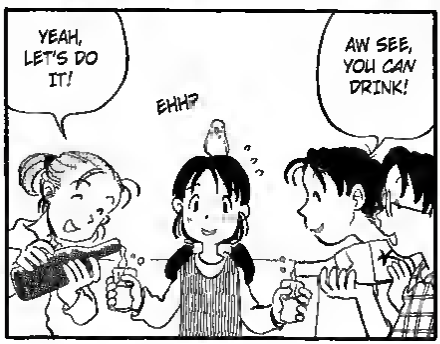

GOOD MORNING.

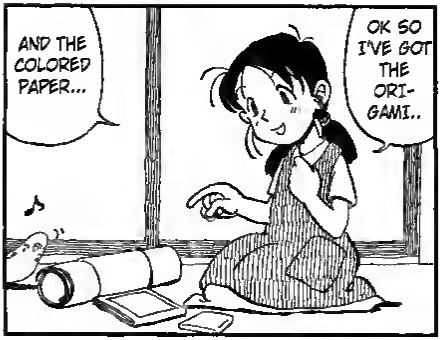
KIMI, YOU DRINK TOO!
OH NO, I REALLY CAN'T DRINK.
AW, C'MON.

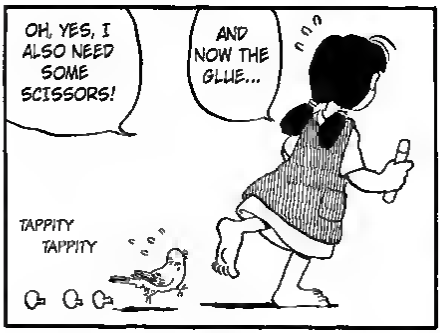

KIMI, YOU'RE SO ENERGETIC.

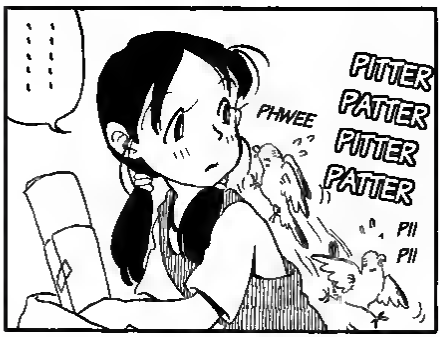

WELL, MAYBE JUST A LITTLE...

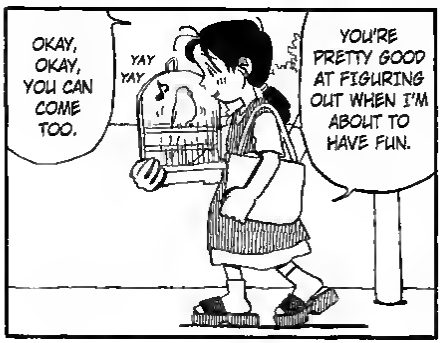

ESPECIALLY SINCE LAST NIGHT YOU WERE DRUNKENLY SHOWING THE WHOLE SHOPPING CENTER YOUR PRO WRESTLING MOVES.
OH NOOO!!


AW SEE, YOU CAN DRINK!
EHH?
YEAH, LET'S DO IT!

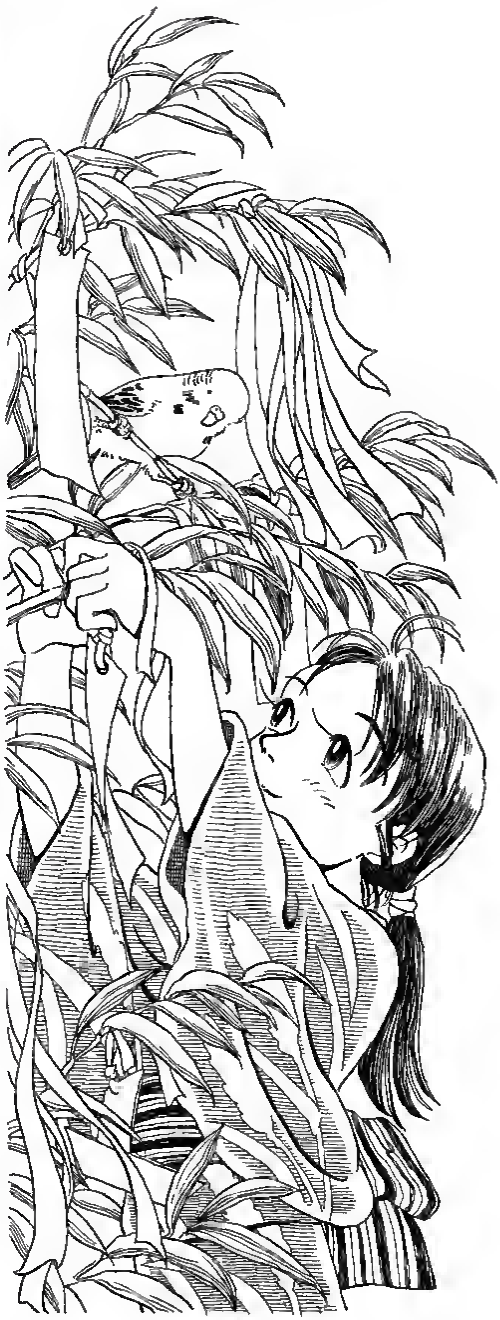

AND THE COLORED PAPER...
OK SO I'VE GOT THE ORI-GAMI..

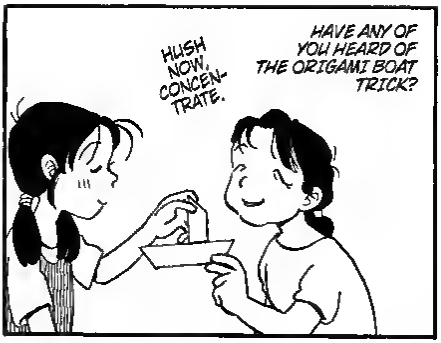

OH, YES, I ALSO NEED SOME SCISSORS!
AND NOW THE GLUE...
TAPPITY TAPPITY

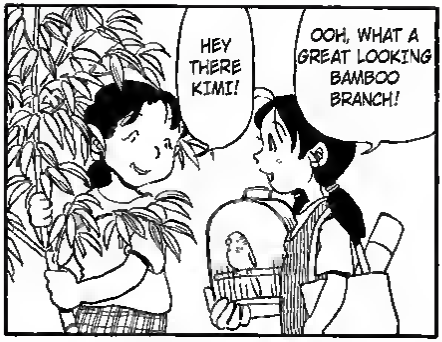

PHWEE
PITTER PATTER PITTER PATTER
PII PII

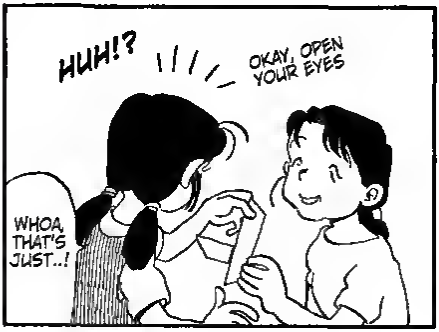

OKAY, OKAY, YOU CAN COME TOO.
YAY YAY
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT FIGURING OUT WHEN I'M ABOUT TO HAVE FUN.

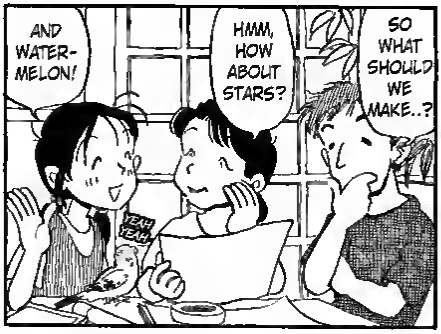
PART 15



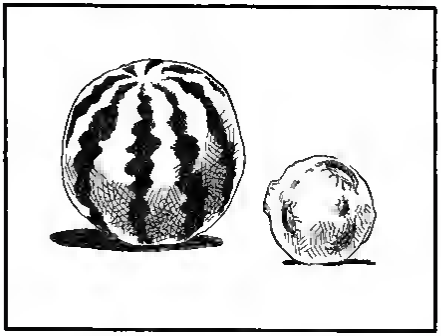

HUSH NOW, CONCEN-TRATE.
HAVE ANY OF YOU HEARD OF THE ORIGAMI BOAT TRICK?

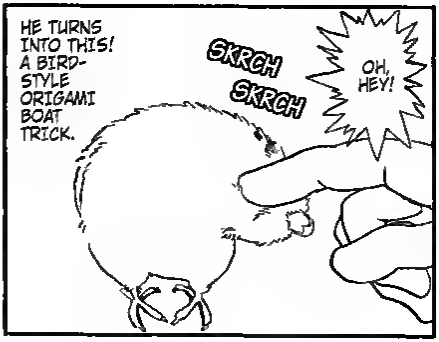

HEY THERE KIMI!
OOH, WHAT A GREAT LOOKING BAMBOO BRANCH!


HUH!?
OKAY, OPEN YOUR EYES
WHOA, THAT'S JUST..!

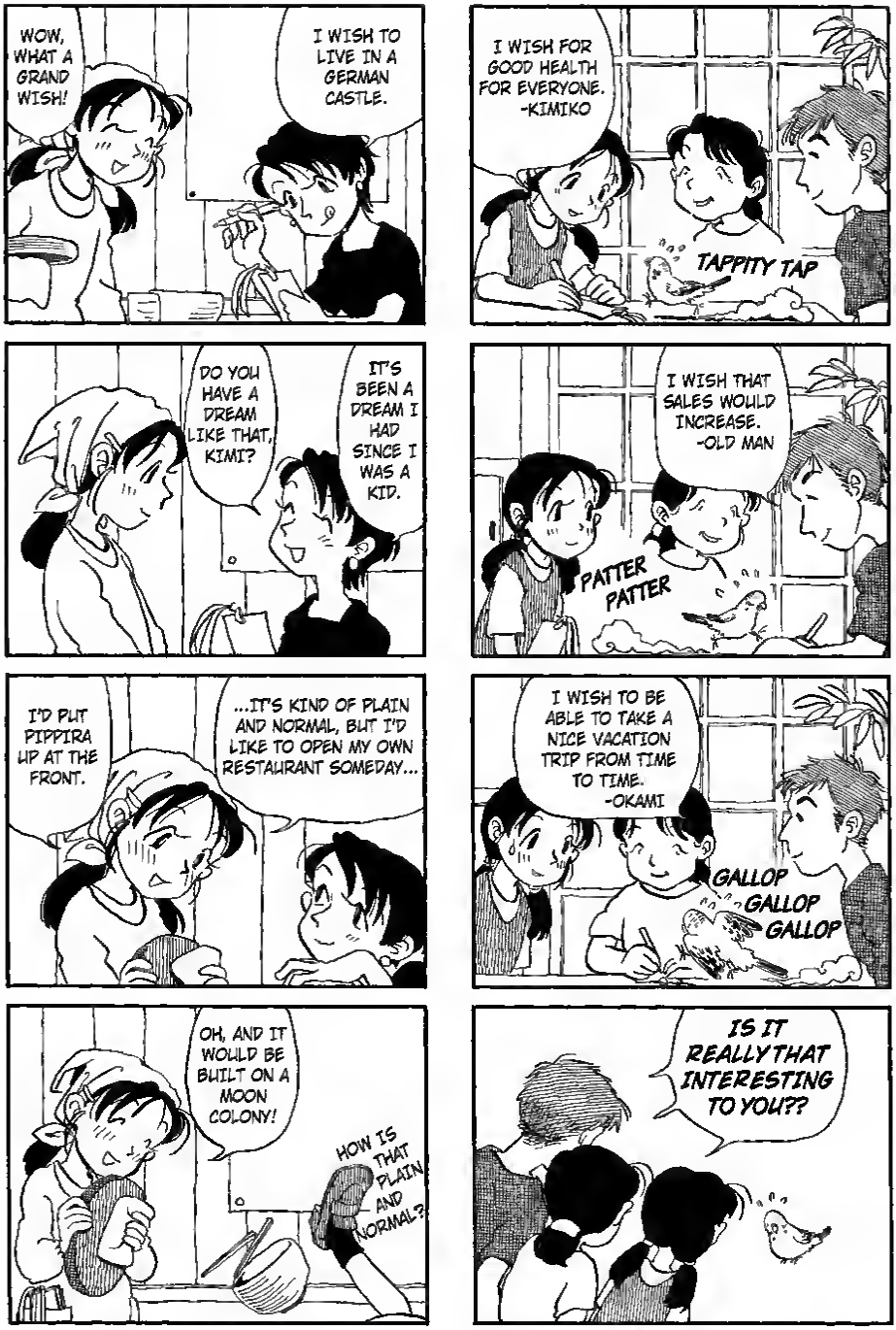

AND WATER-MELON!
HMM, HOW ABOUT STARS?
SO WHAT SHOULD WE MAKE..?
YEAH YEAH

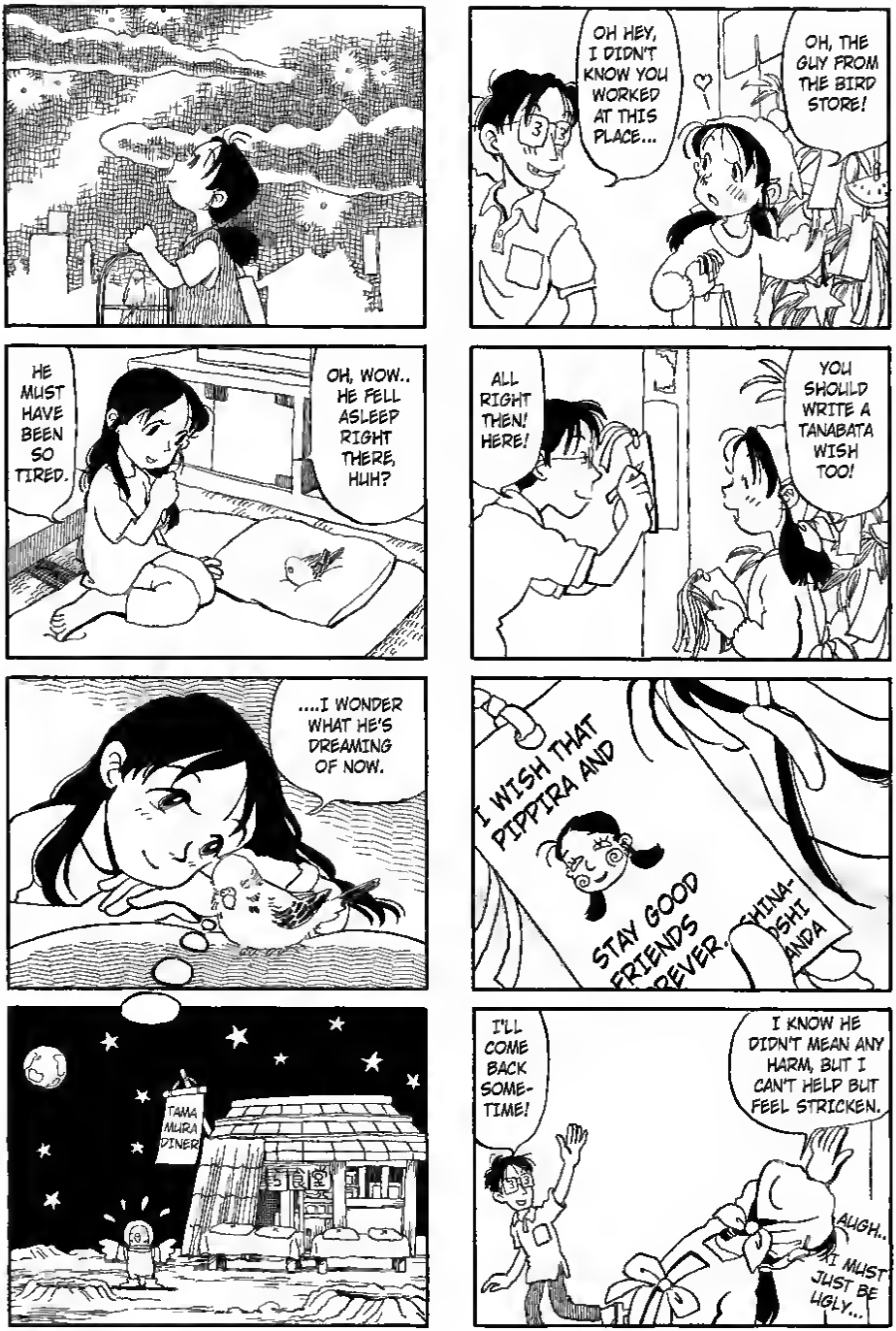
WHEN YOU ARE DOING THIS AND YOU LOOK AWAY...
SKRCH
SKRCH

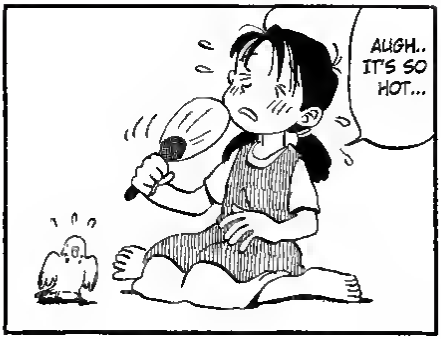


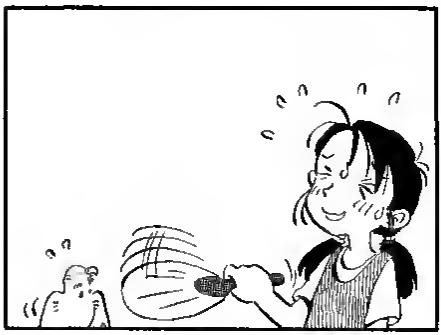

HE TURNS INTO THIS! A BIRD-STYLE ORIGAMI BOAT TRICK.
SKRCH
SKRCH
OH, HEY!

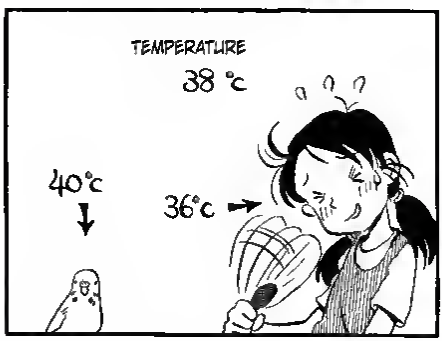
PLUS, HOW'D YOU DO IT!?
HOW CAN WE DECORATE WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT???

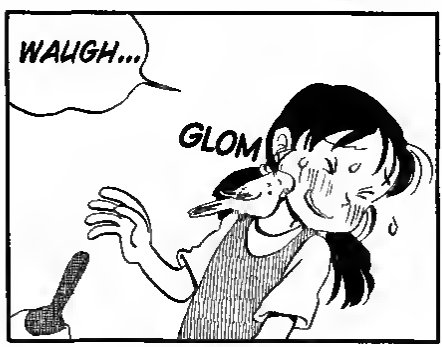

WOW, WHAT A GRAND WISH!
I WISH TO LIVE IN A GERMAN CASTLE.
I WISH FOR GOOD HEALTH FOR EVERYONE. -KIMIKO
TAPPITY TAP
DO YOU HAVE A DREAM LIKE THAT, KIMI?
IT'S BEEN A DREAM I HAD SINCE I WAS A KID.
I WISH THAT SALES WOULD INCREASE. -OLD MAN
PATTER PATTER
I'D PUT PIPPIRA UP AT THE FRONT.
...IT'S KIND OF PLAIN AND NORMAL, BUT I'D LIKE TO OPEN MY OWN RESTAURANT SOMEDAY...
I WISH TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A NICE VACATION TRIP FROM TIME TO TIME. -OKAMI
GALLOP GALLOP GALLOP
OH, AND IT WOULD BE BUILT ON A MOON COLONY!
HOW IS THAT PLAIN AND NORMAL?
IS IT REALLY THAT INTERESTING TO YOU??


OH HEY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WORKED AT THIS PLACE...
OH, THE GUY FROM THE BIRD STORE!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN SO TIRED.
OH, WOW.. HE FELL ASLEEP RIGHT THERE, HUH?
ALL RIGHT THEN! HERE!
YOU SHOULD WRITE A TANABATA WISH TOO!
....I WONDER WHAT HE'S DREAMING OF NOW.
I WISH THAT PIPPIRA AND
STAY GOOD FRIENDS FOREVER.
-SHINA-OSHI ANDA
TAMA MURA DINER
I'LL COME BACK SOME-TIME!
I KNOW HE DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL STRICKEN.
AUGH.. I MUST JUST BE UGLY...

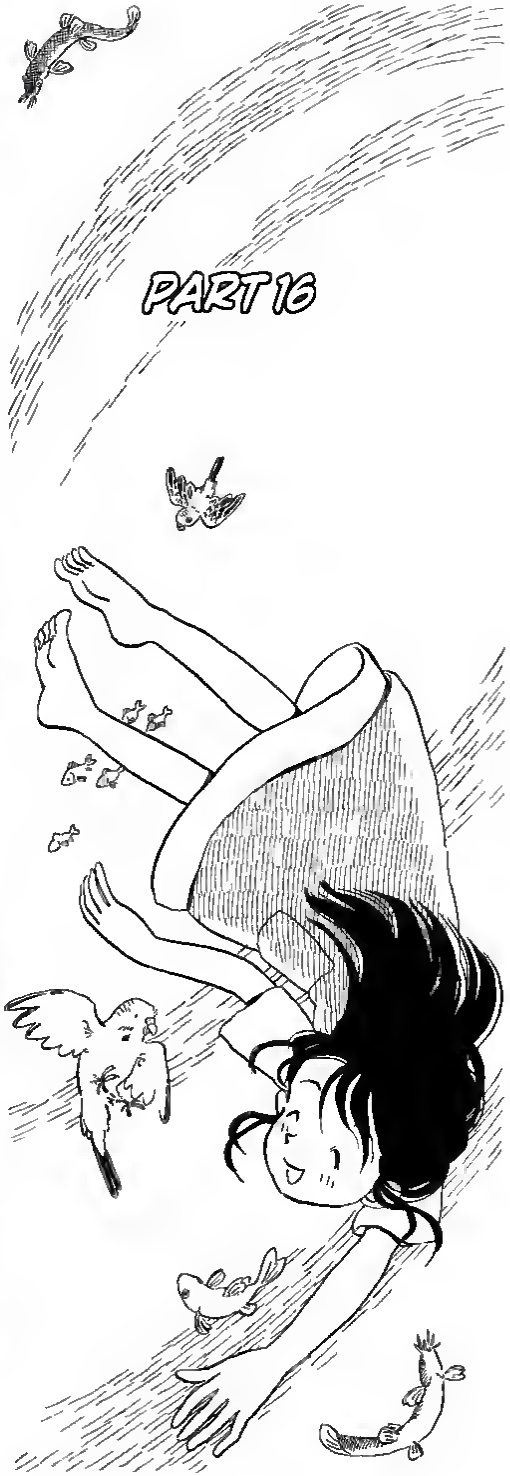




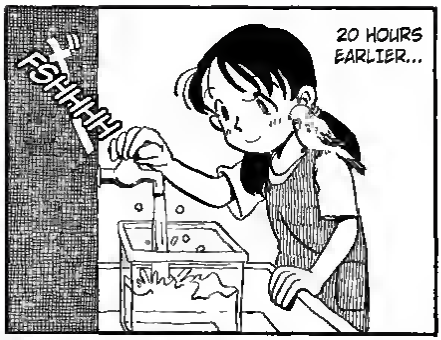


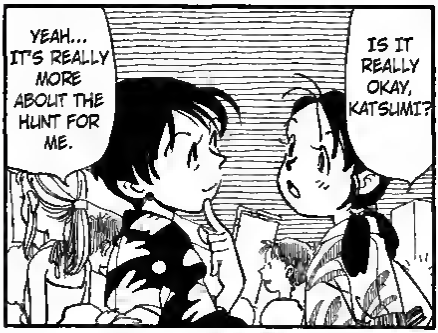


PART 16

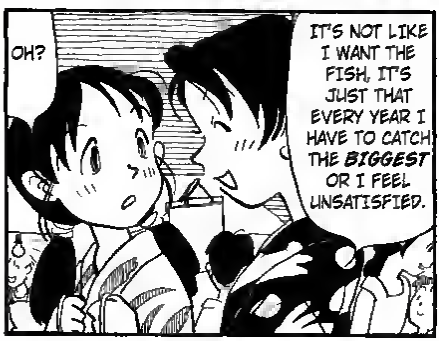


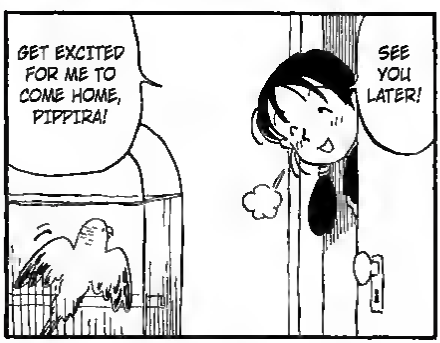
REAL-LY?
YOU CAN HAVE THE ONE I CAUGHT, TOO, IF YOU WANT.

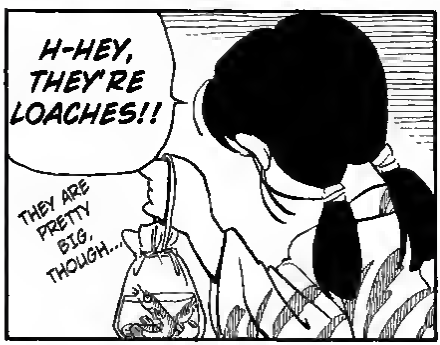

FSHHH
20 HOURS EARLIER...

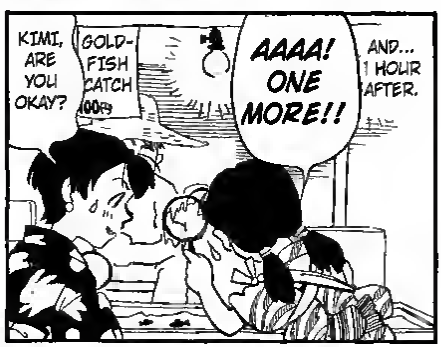

YEAH... IT'S REALLY MORE ABOUT THE HUNT FOR ME.
IS IT REALLY OKAY, KATSUMI?

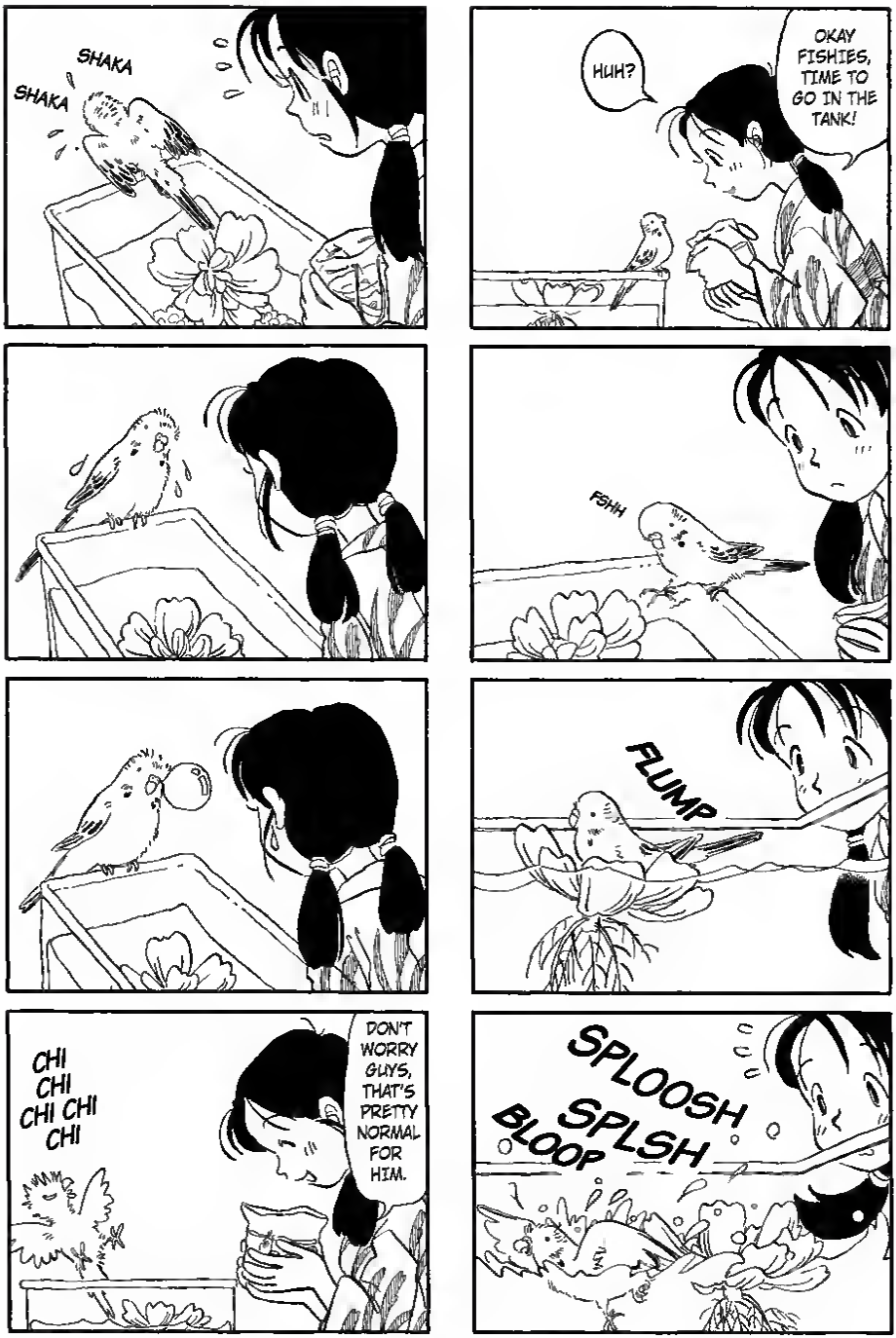
5 HOURS EARLIER...
WATER PLANTS

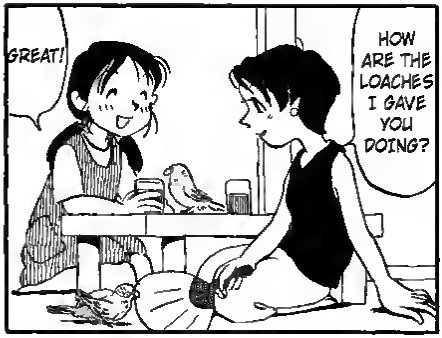

OH?
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT THE FISH, IT'S JUST THAT EVERY YEAR I HAVE TO CATCH THE BIGGEST OR I FEEL UNSATISFIED.

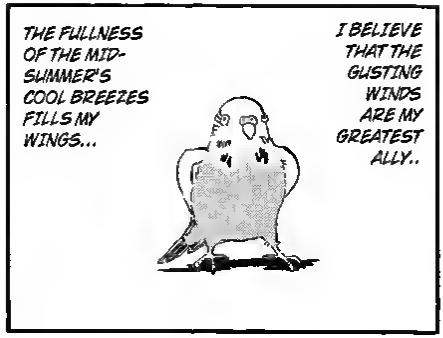

GET EXCITED FOR ME TO COME HOME, PIPPIRA!
SEE YOU LATER!

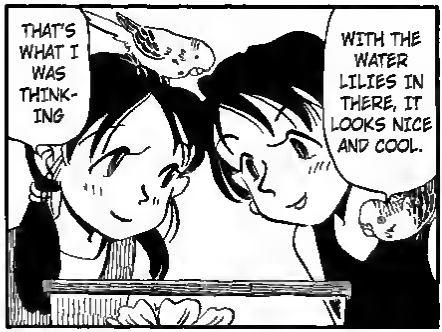

H-HEY, THEY'RE LOACHES!!
THEY ARE PRETTY BIG, THOUGH...

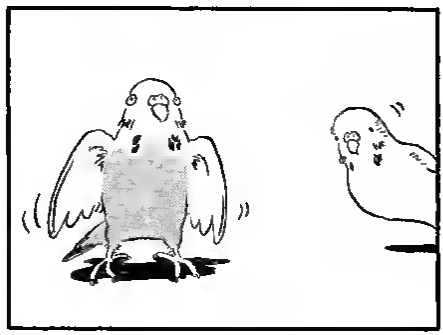

KIMI, ARE YOU OKAY?
GOLD-FISH CATCH 100PT
AAAA! ONE MORE!!
AND... 1 HOUR AFTER.

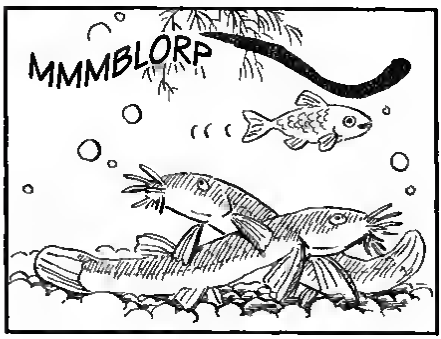

SHAKA
SHAKA
HUH?
OKAY FISHIES, TIME TO GO IN THE TANK!
FSHH
FLUMP
CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI
DON'T WORRY GUYS, THAT'S PRETTY NORMAL FOR HIM.
SPLOOSH
SPLSH
BLOOP

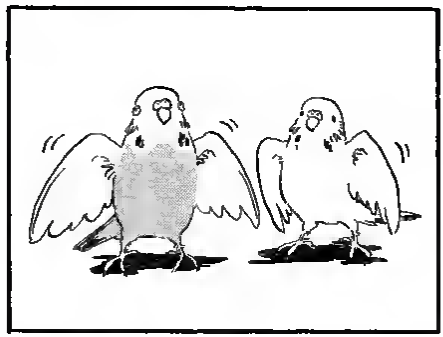

GREAT!
HOW ARE THE LOACHES I GAVE YOU DOING?

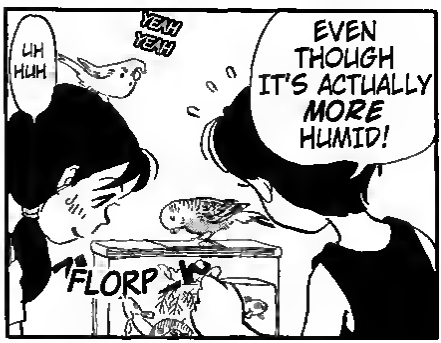

THE FULLNESS OF THE MID-SUMMER'S COOL BREEZES FILLS MY WINGS...
I BELIEVE THAT THE GUSTING WINDS ARE MY GREATEST ALLY..

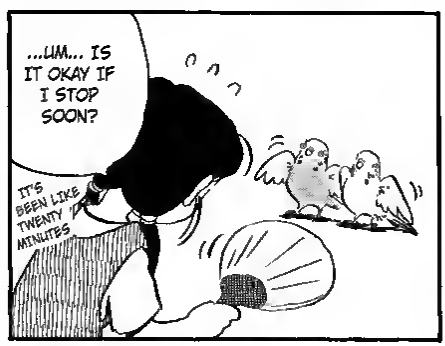

THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINK-ING
WITH THE WATER LILIES IN THERE, IT LOOKS NICE AND COOL.

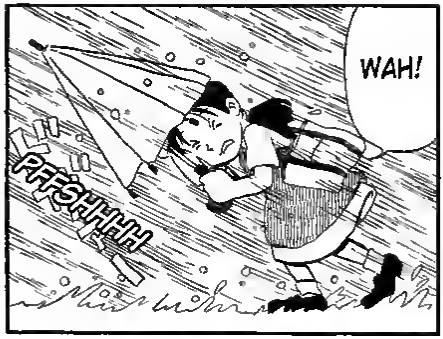



MMMBLORP

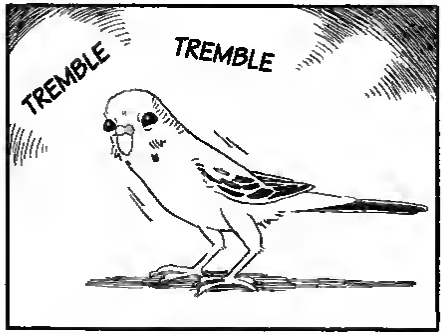



UH HUH
YEAH YEAH
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ACTUALLY MORE HUMID!
FLORP


...UM... IS IT OKAY IF I STOP SOON?
IT'S BEEN LIKE TWENTY MINUTES


WAH!
PFSHHHH

YIKES!! IT'S SO SCARY OUT THERE! PIPPIRA..?
FLASH
KRSH!HH
RRRUMBLE
TUN

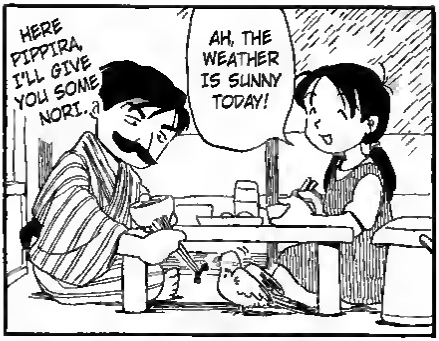

TREMBLE
TREMBLE

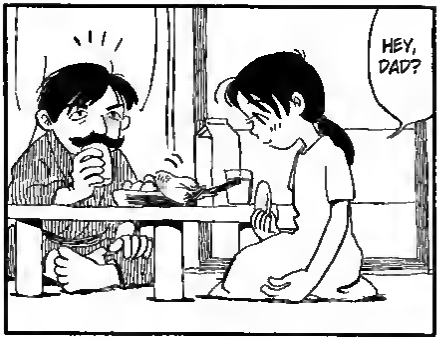
THAT'S SCARED ENOUGH!
WHEN PIPPIRA IS ANXIOUS, HE MAKES HIMSELF VERY THIN.
WHIRL
WHIRL

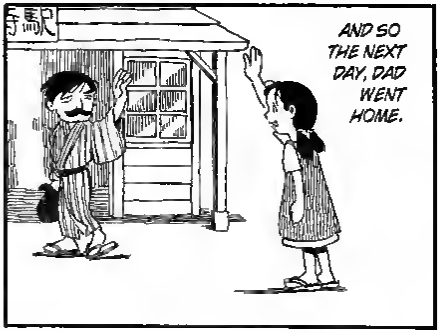
PART 17

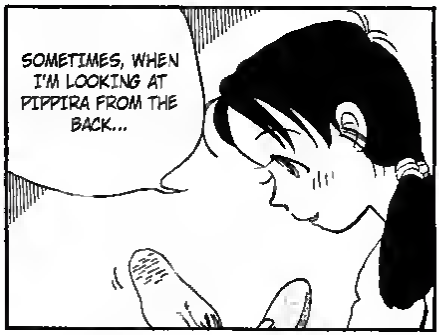
BRIIIING
HM?
FSHH
PHEW... NOW I REALLY FEEL LIKE A HUMAN BEING AGAIN...
OH, I SHOULD CLOSE THE SHUTTERS.
FSHH
RATTLE RATTLE
AH? YOU CAME TO TOWN FOR WORK AND NOW YOU CAN'T GET BACK, BECAUSE OF THE TYPHOON?
OH, HI DAD.
AND YOU'RE COMING HERE??
FSHHHH
OOP!
ガーン
KRACK!!!
FSHHHH
NO, DAD, THAT WAS JUST LIGHTNING! I SWEAR!
BAKOOM!!
NO, IT'S GREAT, YOU CAN COME!
PANT PANT
AND I'D JUST CHANGED MY CLOTHES, TOO...
I'M HOME...

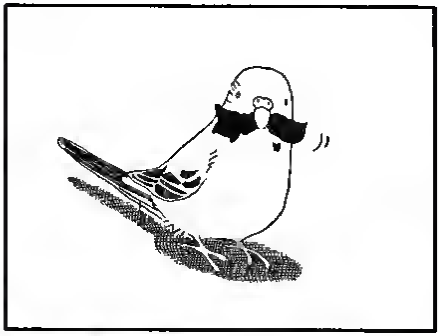
..NAH.
I'LL FETCH YOU SOME HOT TEA.
MM.
COME ON IN! ISN'T IT SO AWFUL OUT THERE?
HERE, KIMIKO, I BROUGHT JUICE.
PIPPIRA! MY DAD'S HERE!
ALSO SOME SNACKS.
PIPPIRA, WHERE AAARE YOU?
EH? PIPPIRA?
THIS ISN'T A SLEEP-OVER, DAD!!
WEE
WEE
OH HEY, THERE'S AN ALL-NIGHT SCARY MOVIE MARATHON!

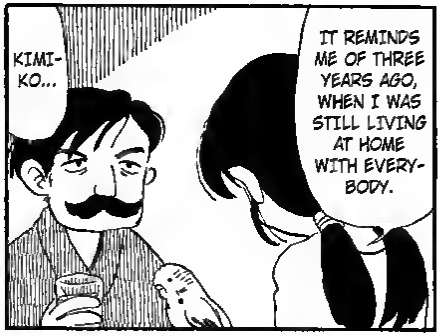

HERE PIPPIRA, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME NORI.
AH, THE WEATHER IS SUNNY TODAY!

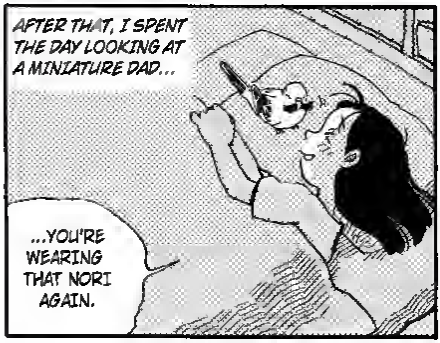

HEY, DAD?


AND SO THE NEXT DAY, DAD WENT HOME.


SOMETIMES, WHEN I'M LOOKING AT PIPPIRA FROM THE BACK...

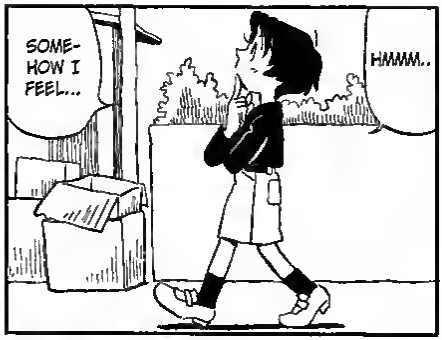


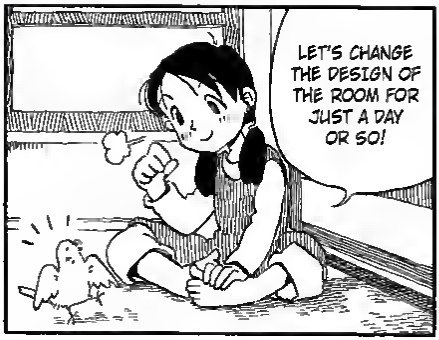

KIMI-KO...
IT REMINDS ME OF THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS STILL LIVING AT HOME WITH EVERY-BODY.

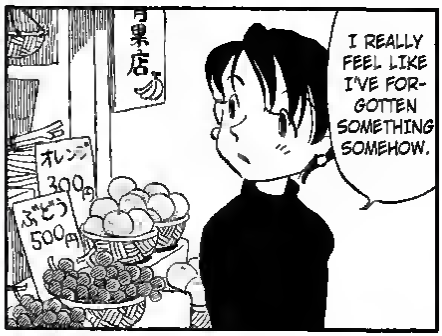

AFTER THAT, I SPENT THE DAY LOOKING AT A MINIATURE DAD...
...YOU'RE WEARING THAT NORI AGAIN.

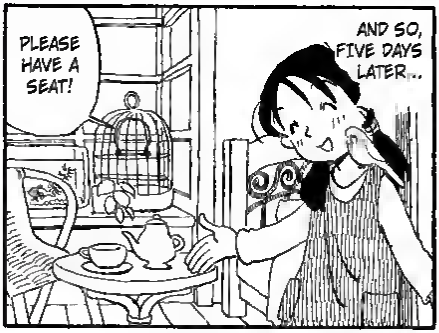
'COS BACK THEN, YOU DIDN'T WEAR A WIG!
WHAT
CHI CHI CHI CHI

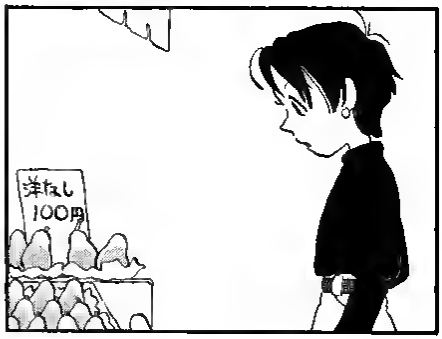
PART 18
OOPS!
OKAY, TONIGHT IT'S TIME FOR CHESTNUT RICE!
TUMBLE
UH HUH THOUGHT SO.

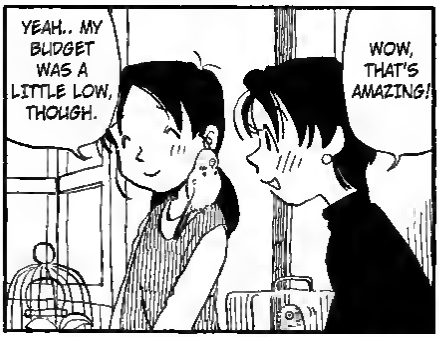

SOME-
HOW I
FEEL...
HMMM..

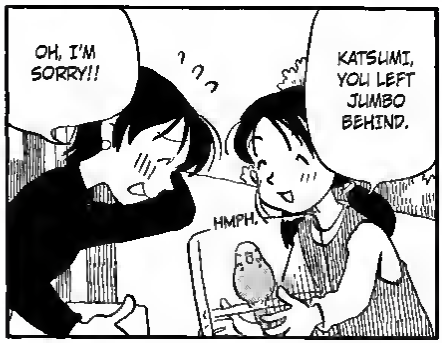

LET'S CHANGE
THE DESIGN OF
THE ROOM FOR
JUST A DAY
OR SO!


I REALLY
FEEL LIKE
I'VE FOR-
GOTTEN
SOMETHING
SOMEHOW.

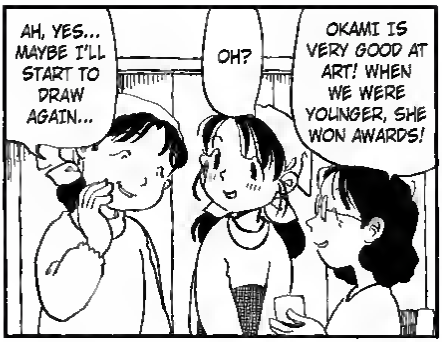

PLEASE
HAVE A
SEAT!
AND SO,
FIVE DAYS
LATER..

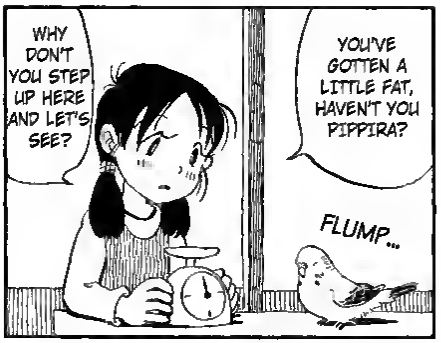

洋ねし
100円

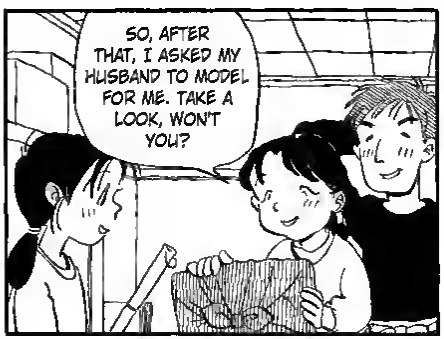

YEAH.. MY
BUDGET
WAS A
LITTLE LOW,
THOUGH.
WOW,
THAT'S
AMAZING!

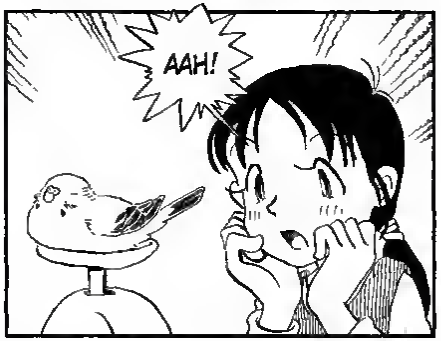

OH, I'M
SORRY!!
KATSUMI,
YOU LEFT
JUMBO
BEHIND.
HMPH.

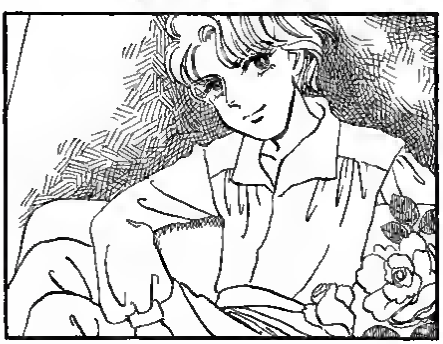
KADONK!
SO IT'S
JUST A
PICTURE
ON THE
DOOR.
CHI
CHI
CHI
CHI
KRRRSH!

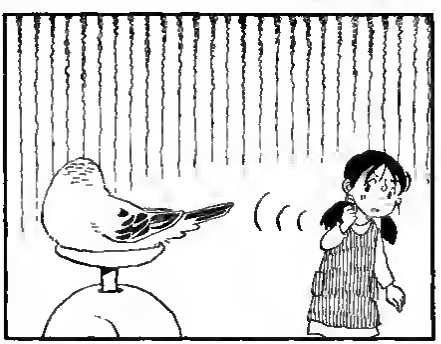

AH, YES... MAYBE I'LL START TO DRAW AGAIN...
OH?
OKAMI IS VERY GOOD AT ART! WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER, SHE WON AWARDS!


WHY DON'T YOU STEP UP HERE AND LET'S SEE?
YOU'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE FAT, HAVEN'T YOU PIPPIRA?
FLUMP...

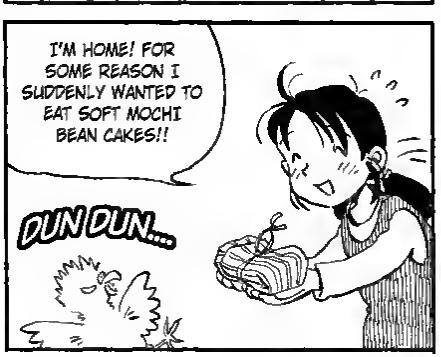

SO, AFTER THAT, I ASKED MY HUSBAND TO MODEL FOR ME. TAKE A LOOK, WON'T YOU?

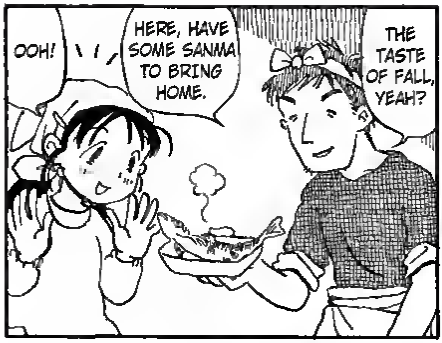

AAH!

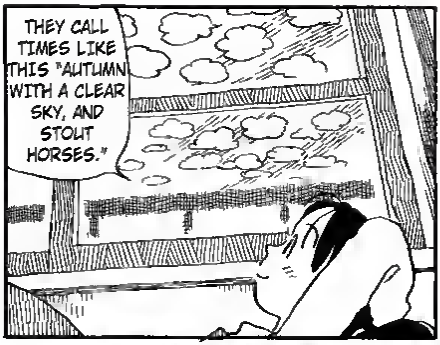


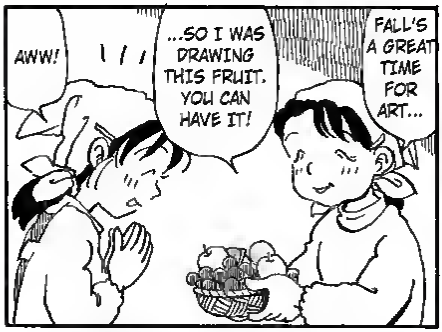


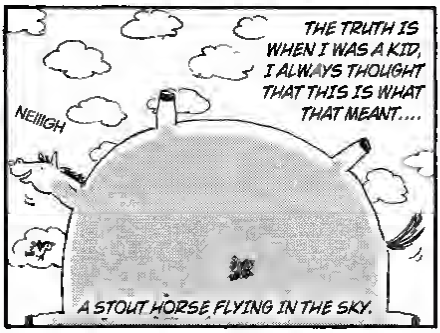
P-PLEASE DRAW ME TOO!!
I THINK IT WAS CALLED THE BRONZE PLUM.
...WERE FROM SHOUJO COMIC BOOKS.
THE AWARDS YOU WON...

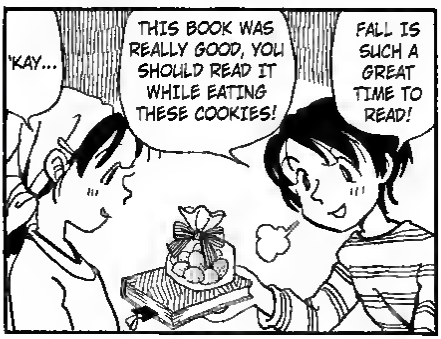

I'M HOME! FOR SOME REASON I SUDDENLY WANTED TO EAT SOFT MOCHI BEAN CAKES!!
DUN DUN...

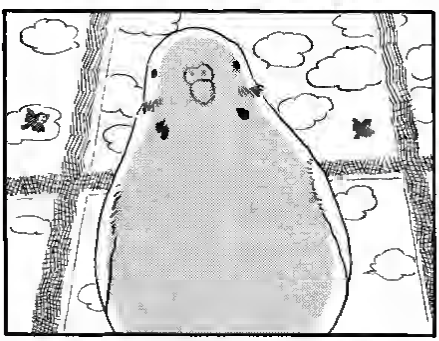

OOH!
HERE, HAVE SOME SANMA TO BRING HOME.
THE TASTE OF FALL, YEAH?

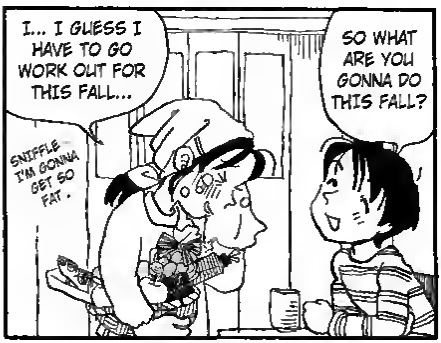

THEY CALL TIMES LIKE THIS "AUTUMN WITH A CLEAR SKY, AND STOUT HORSES."

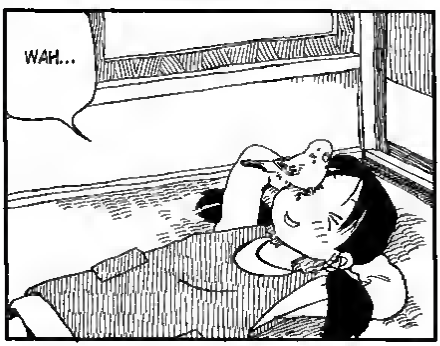

AWW!
...SO I WAS DRAWING THIS FRUIT. YOU CAN HAVE IT!
FALL'S A GREAT TIME FOR ART...

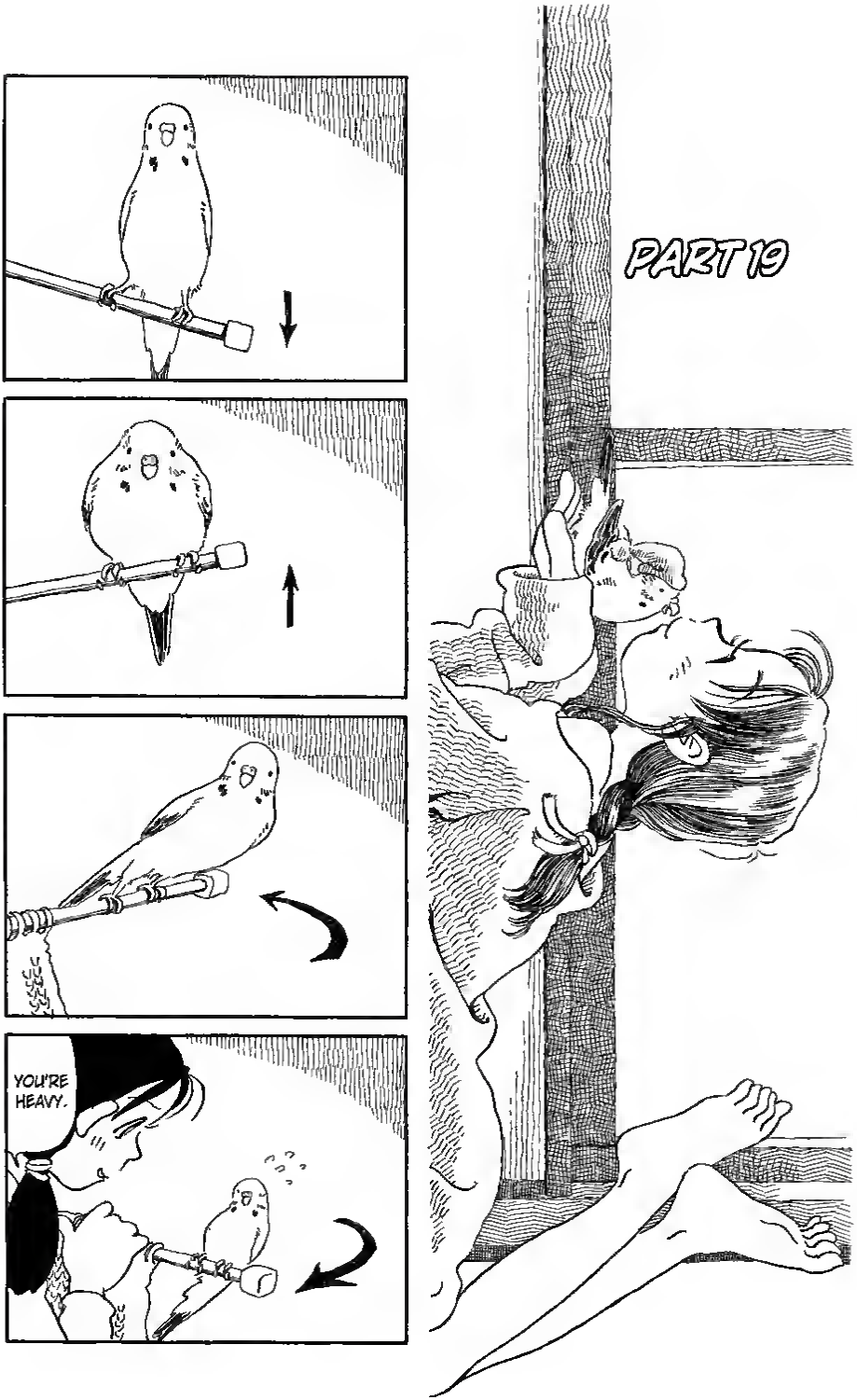

THE TRUTH IS WHEN I WAS A KID, I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THIS IS WHAT THAT MEANT....
NEIIIGH
A STOUT HORSE FLYING IN THE SKY.

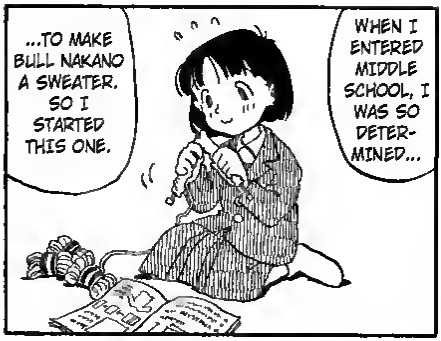

'KAY...
THIS BOOK WAS REALLY GOOD, YOU SHOULD READ IT WHILE EATING THESE COOKIES!
FALL IS SUCH A GREAT TIME TO READ!

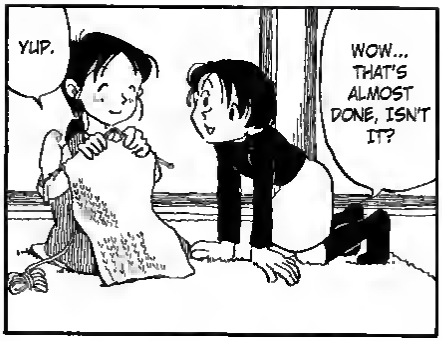



I... I GUESS I HAVE TO GO WORK OUT FOR THIS FALL...
SNIFFLE I'M GONNA GET SO FAT.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO THIS FALL?

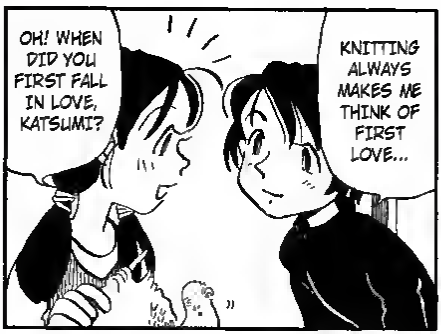

WAH...


PART 19
YOU'RE HEAVY.

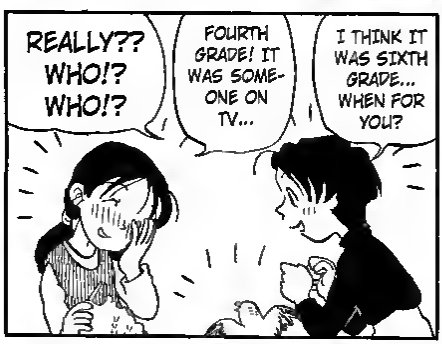

...TO MAKE BULL NAKANO A SWEATER. SO I STARTED THIS ONE.
WHEN I ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL, I WAS SO DETER-MINED...

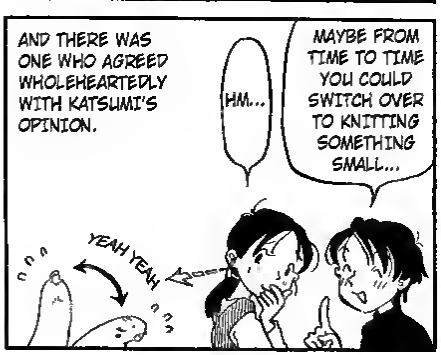

YUP.
WOW... THAT'S ALMOST DONE, ISN'T IT?

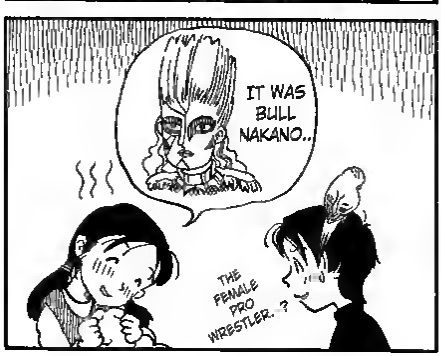
YOU'VE BEEN KNITTING THAT FOR 8 YEARS!!?
IT'S TAKEN ME 8 YEARS.

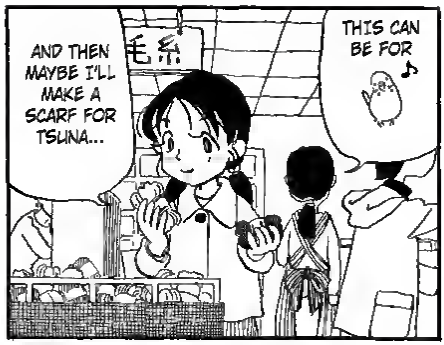

OH! WHEN DID YOU FIRST FALL IN LOVE, KATSUMI?
KNITTING ALWAYS MAKES ME THINK OF FIRST LOVE...

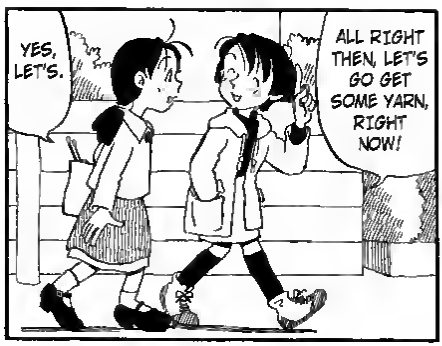
I GUESS SO...
YEAH YEAH
SO YOU'VE BEEN KNITTING THE SAME THING THAT WHOLE TIME, AND YOU HAVEN'T MADE PROGRESS?

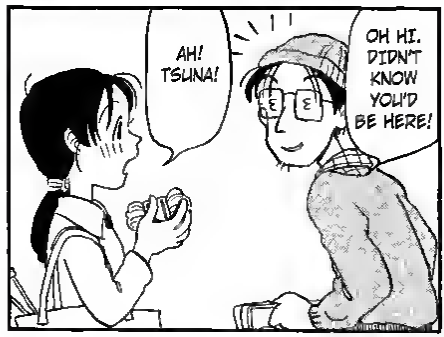

REALLY?? WHO!? WHO!?
FOURTH GRADE! IT WAS SOME-ONE ON TV...
I THINK IT WAS SIXTH GRADE... WHEN FOR YOU?

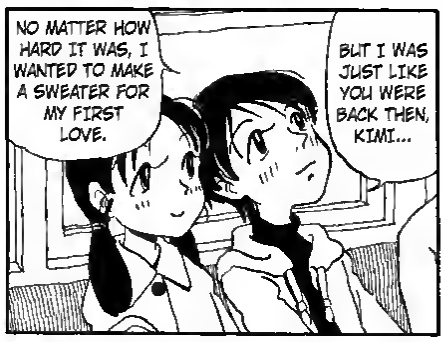

AND THERE WAS ONE WHO AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH KATSUMI'S OPINION.
HM...
MAYBE FROM TIME TO TIME YOU COULD SWITCH OVER TO KNITTING SOMETHING SMALL...
YEAH YEAH


IT WAS BULL NAKANO..
THE FEMALE PRO WRESTLER..?

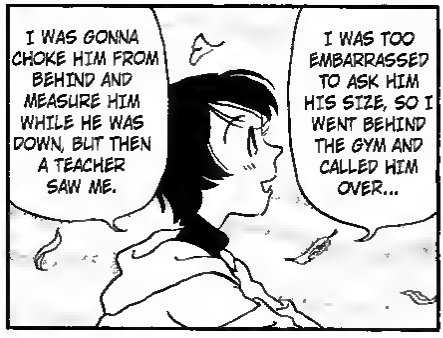

AND THEN MAYBE I'LL MAKE A SCARF FOR TSUNA...
毛糸
THIS CAN BE FOR ♪

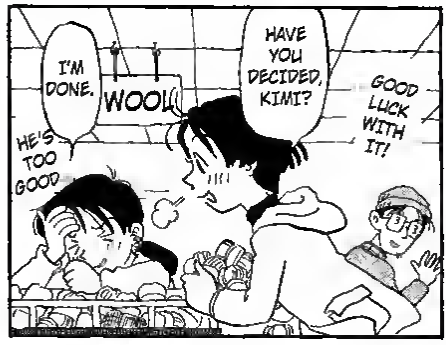

YES, LET'S.
ALL RIGHT THEN, LET'S GO GET SOME YARN, RIGHT NOW!

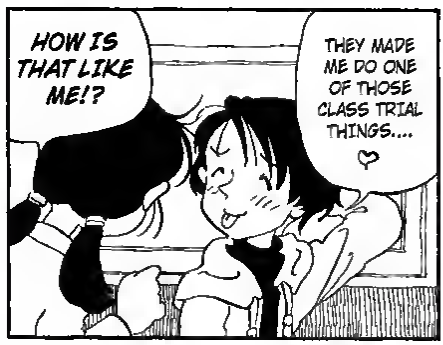

AH! TSUNA!
OH HI. DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE HERE!

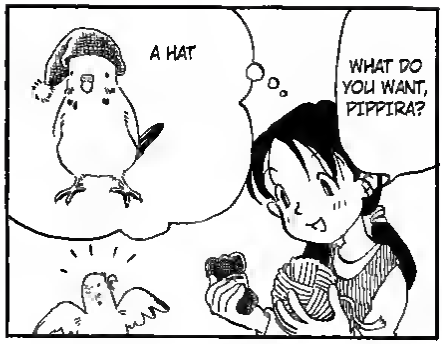

NO MATTER HOW HARD IT WAS, I WANTED TO MAKE A SWEATER FOR MY FIRST LOVE.
BUT I WAS JUST LIKE YOU WERE BACK THEN, KIMI...

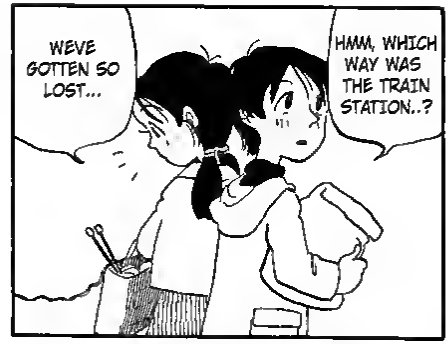
HEH HEH HEH
HAND-KNIT
AHHH, WELL I ONLY JUST STARTED LAST MONTH, BUT I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY INTO KNITTING!
HAND-KNIT
PILES OF YARN

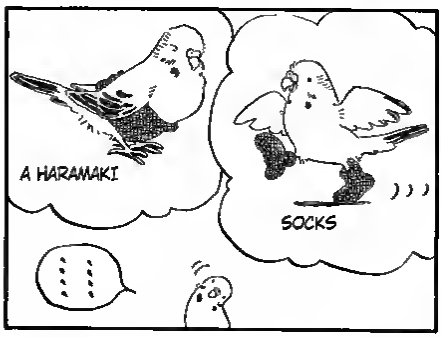

I WAS GONNA CHOKE HIM FROM BEHIND AND MEASURE HIM WHILE HE WAS DOWN, BUT THEN A TEACHER SAW ME.
I WAS TOO EMBARRASSED TO ASK HIM HIS SIZE, SO I WENT BEHIND THE GYM AND CALLED HIM OVER...

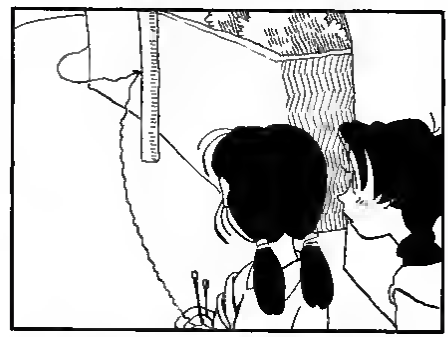

I'M DONE.
WOO!
HAVE YOU DECIDED, KIMI?
GOOD LUCK WITH IT!
HE'S TOO GOOD

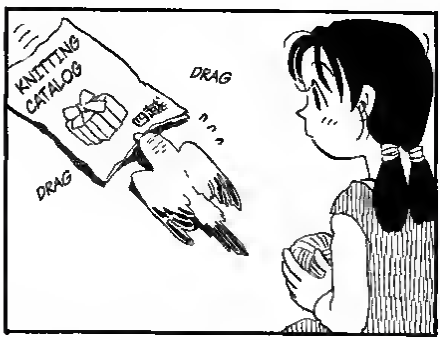

HOW IS THAT LIKE ME!?
THEY MADE ME DO ONE OF THOSE CLASS TRIAL THINGS.... ♡

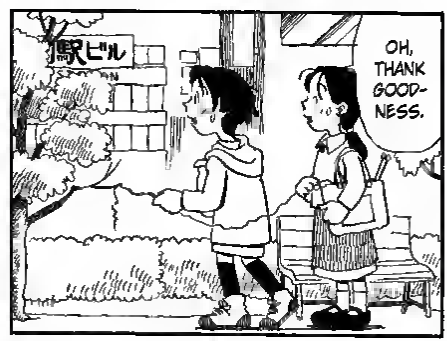

A HAT
WHAT DO YOU WANT, PIPPIRA?


WEVE GOTTEN SO LOST...
HMM, WHICH WAY WAS THE TRAIN STATION..?

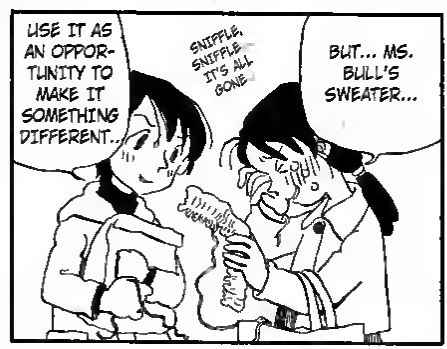

A HARAMAKI
SOCKS



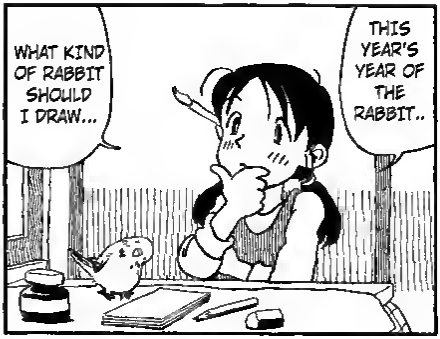

KNITTING CATALOG
DRAG
DRAG

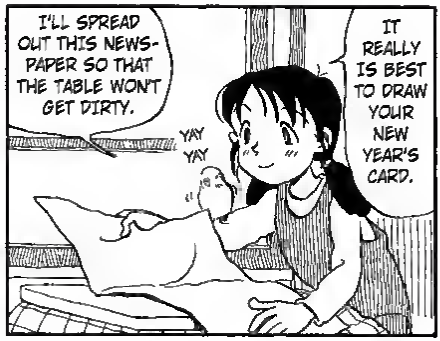

駅ビル
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS.

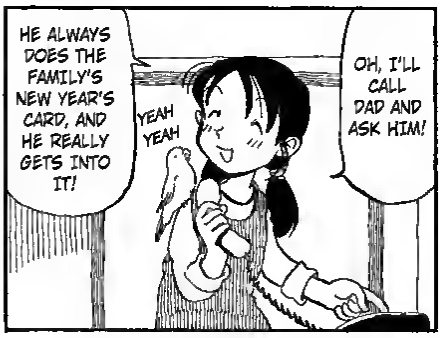
REALLY? YOU REALLY WANTED ME TO MAKE YOU THAT!?

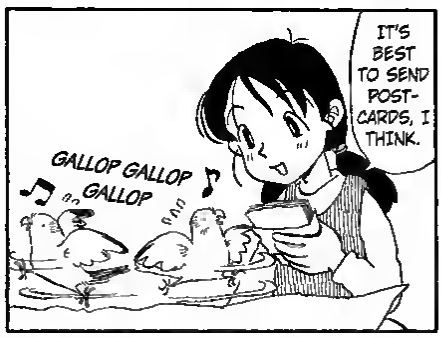

USE IT AS AN OPPOR-TUNITY TO MAKE IT SOMETHING DIFFERENT..
SNIFFLE, SNIFFLE IT'S ALL GONE
BUT... MS. BULL'S SWEATER...

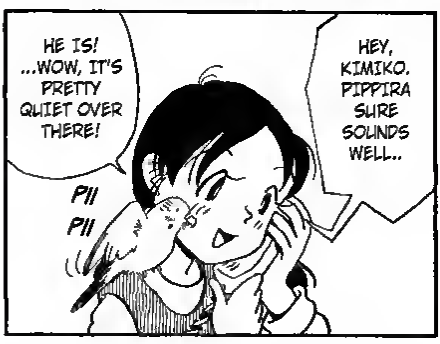
PART 20
OH, I TOOK THEM SO I COULD SEND A NICE NEW YEAR'S CARD, BUT...
OH, KIMI... WHAT ARE THE PHOTOS FOR?
AAAAAA
REALLY? WHERE? WHERE?
ISN'T THIS A PHOTO OF A GHOST?
STOP DANCING!
SHAKE SHAKE

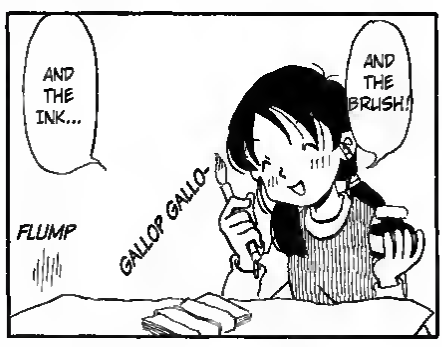

WHAT KIND OF RABBIT SHOULD I DRAW...
THIS YEAR'S YEAR OF THE RABBIT..


I'LL SPREAD OUT THIS NEWS-PAPER SO THAT THE TABLE WON'T GET DIRTY.
YAY YAY
IT REALLY IS BEST TO DRAW YOUR NEW YEAR'S CARD.

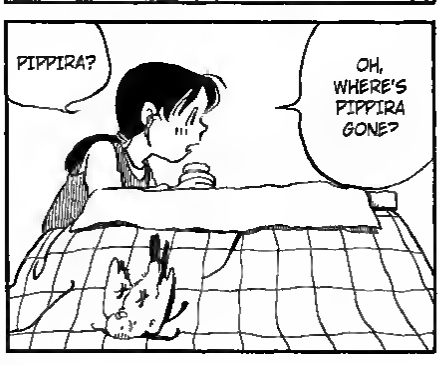

HE ALWAYS DOES THE FAMILY'S NEW YEAR'S CARD, AND HE REALLY GETS INTO IT!
YEAH YEAH
OH, I'LL CALL DAD AND ASK HIM!

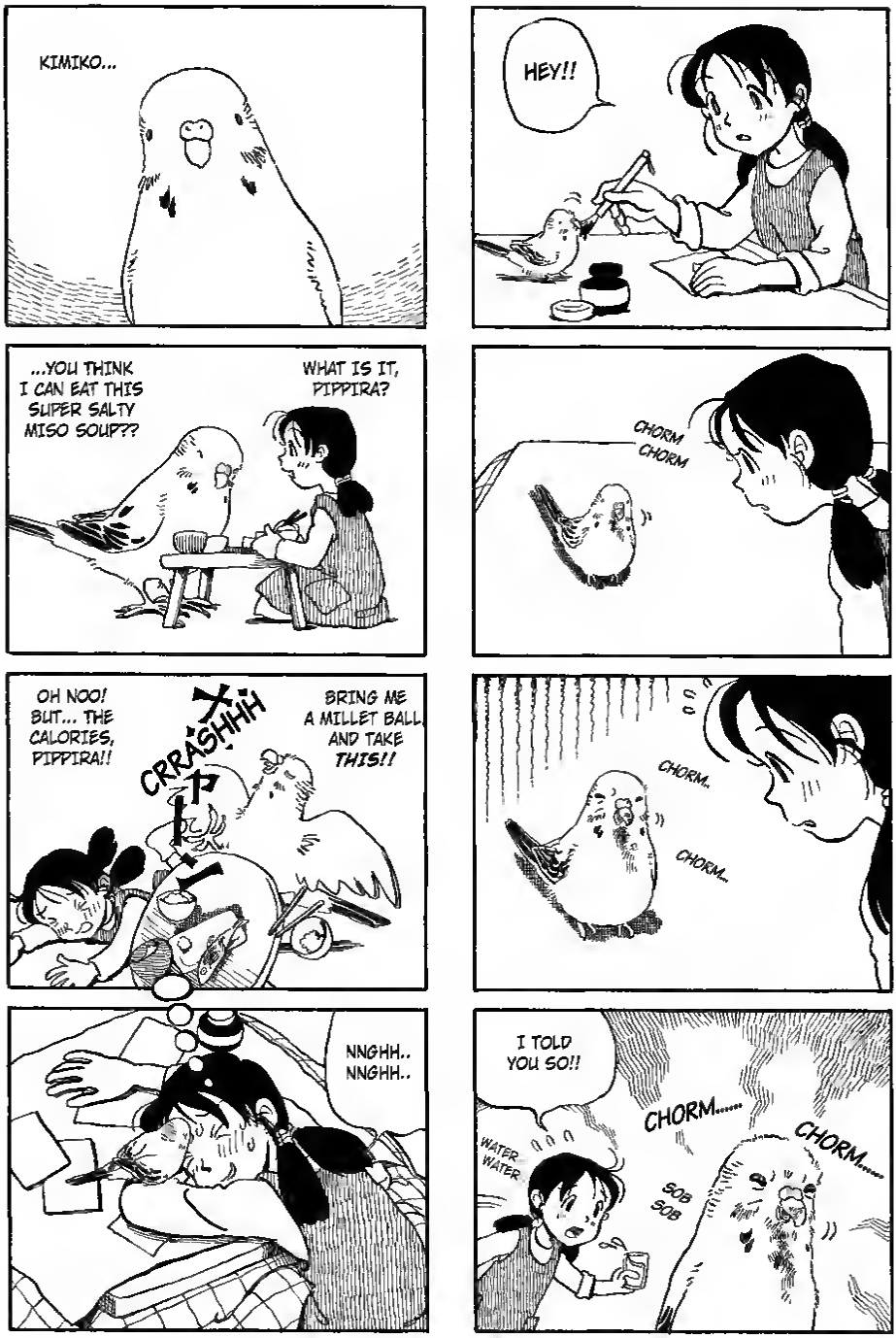

GALLOP GALLOP GALLOP
IT'S BEST TO SEND POST-CARDS, I THINK.

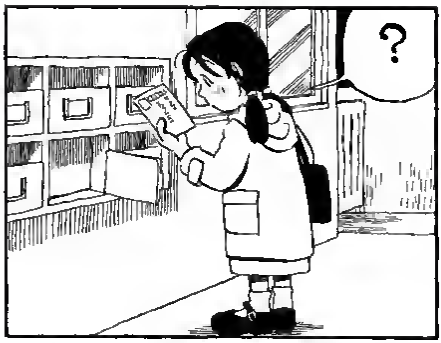

HE IS! ...WOW, IT'S PRETTY QUIET OVER THERE!
PII PII
HEY, KIMIKO. PIPPIRA SURE SOUNDS WELL..

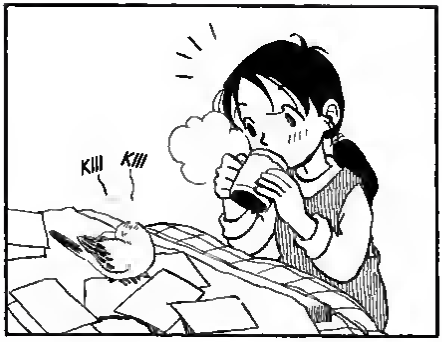

AND THE INK...
AND THE BRUSH!
FLUMP
GALLOP GALLO-

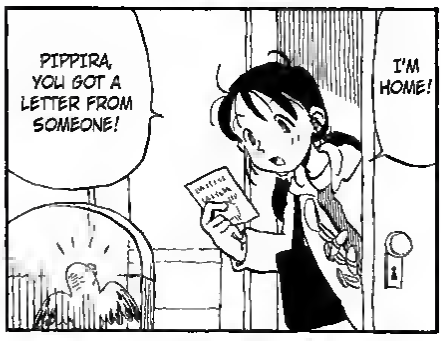
...NOT REALLY.
ARE YOU ALONE?

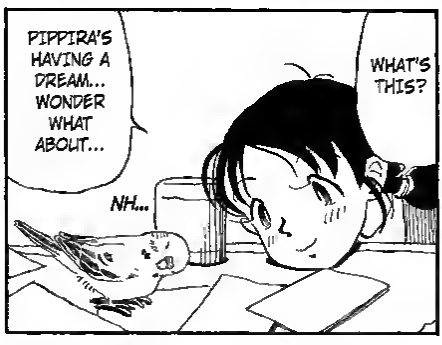

PIPPIRA?
OH, WHERE'S PIPPIRA GONE?


KIMIKO...
HEY!!
...YOU THINK I CAN EAT THIS SUPER SALTY MISO SOUP??
WHAT IS IT, PIPPIRA?
CHORM CHORM
OH NOO! BUT... THE CALORIES, PIPPIRA!!
CRRASHHH
BRING ME A MILLET BALL AND TAKE THIS!!
CHORM.
CHORM.
NNGHH.. NNGHH..
I TOLD YOU SO!!
CHORM.....
CHORM.....
WATER WATER
SOB SOB

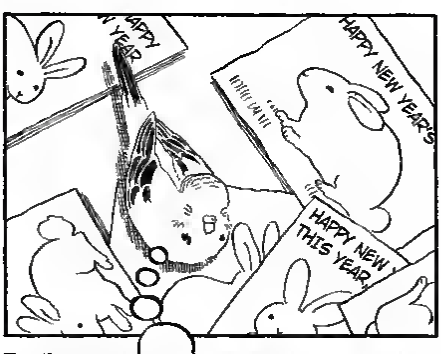

?

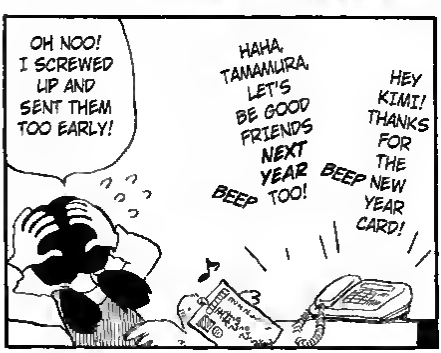

KIII KIII

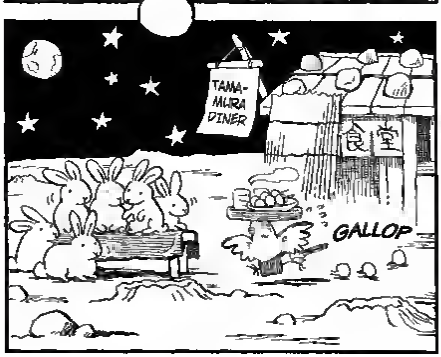

PIPPIRA, YOU GOT A LETTER FROM SOMEONE!
I'M HOME!

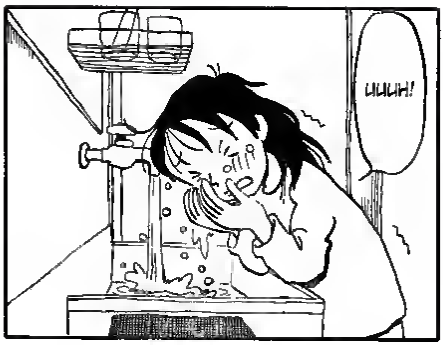

PIPPIRA'S HAVING A DREAM... WONDER WHAT ABOUT...
WHAT'S THIS?
NH...

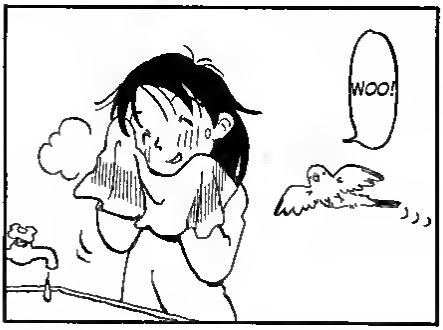
I WONDER WHO...!
HAPPY NEW YEAR! LET'S BE GOOD FRIENDS THIS YEAR TOO!
FROM KIMIKO

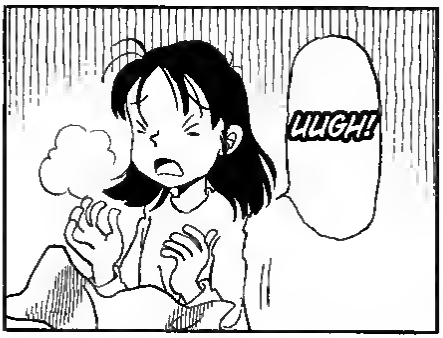

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S
HAPPY NEW YEAR THIS YEAR!

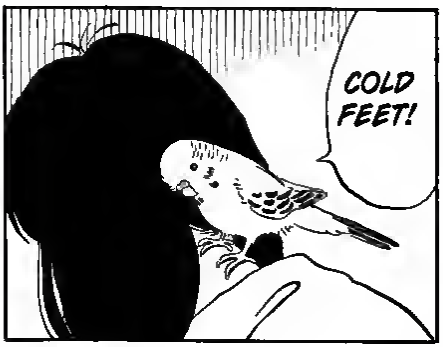

OH NOO! I SCREWED UP AND SENT THEM TOO EARLY!
HAHA, TAMAMURA, LET'S BE GOOD FRIENDS NEXT YEAR TOO!
BEEP
HEY KIMI! THANKS FOR THE NEW YEAR CARD!
BEEP


TAMA-MURA DINER
GALLOP

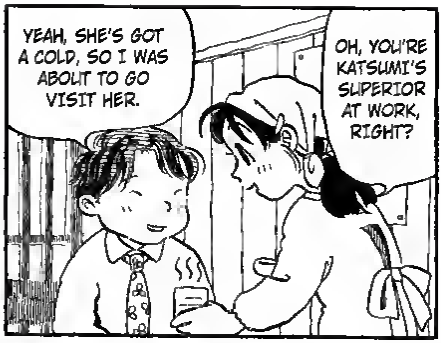




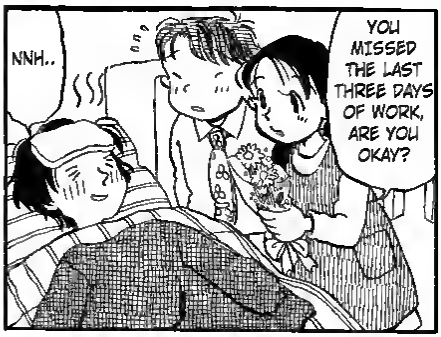


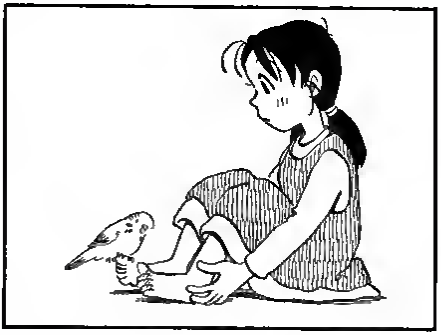


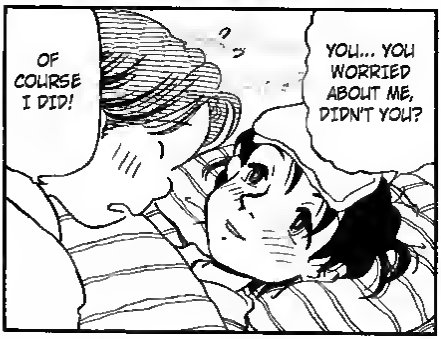
PART 21

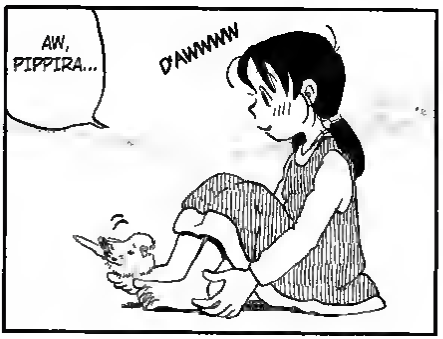

YEAH, SHE'S GOT A COLD, SO I WAS ABOUT TO GO VISIT HER.
OH, YOU'RE KATSUMI'S SUPERIOR AT WORK, RIGHT?

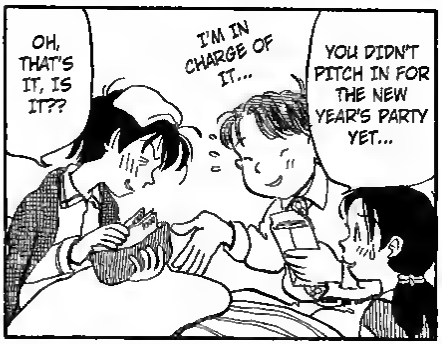
I WENT AND GOT FROST-BITE ON MY TOES...

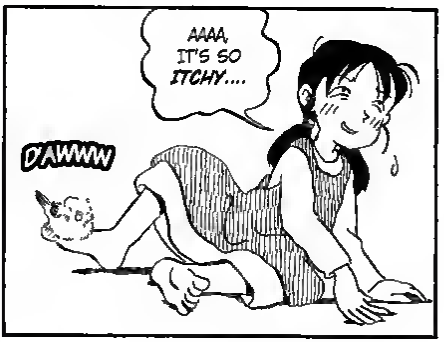

NNH..
YOU MISSED THE LAST THREE DAYS OF WORK, ARE YOU OKAY?



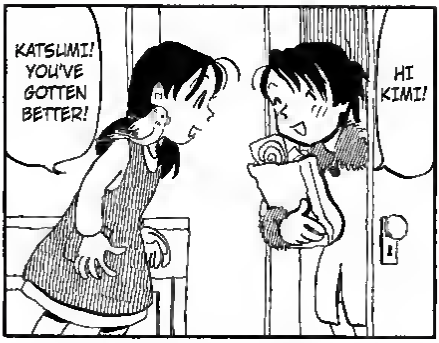

OF COURSE I DID!
YOU... YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME, DIDN'T YOU?


AW, PIPPIRA...
D'AWWWW

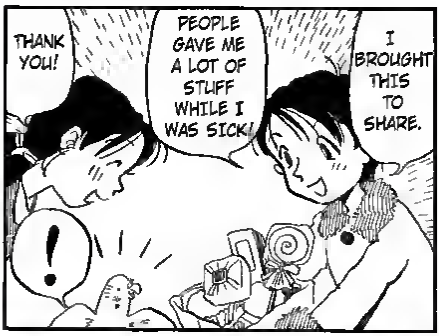

OH, THAT'S IT, IS IT??
I'M IN CHARGE OF IT...
YOU DIDN'T PITCH IN FOR THE NEW YEAR'S PARTY YET...


AAAA, IT'S SO ITCHY....
D'AWWW

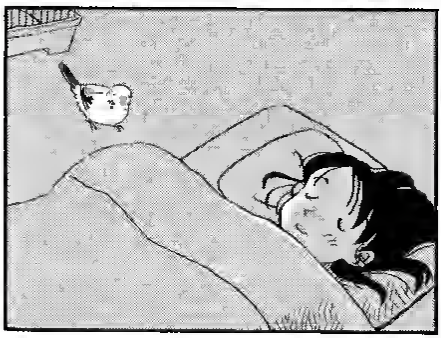
IF YOU CATCH A COLD, THE BEST THING TO DO IS QUIETLY RELAX AND SLEEP.
IT IS I, JUMBO BUDGERIGAR.
HERE, I GOT YOU A PRESENT!
I'M HOME, PIPPIRA!
OH YEAH, HE'S CALLED JUMBO.
IS THAT KATSUMI'S BIRD!?
WHA??
CHOMP
DUN DUN
OH... NOT... NOT THAT ONE...
I'LL, UH, GO HOME...
C'MON, I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE FEVERISH ONE!
YOU SAID I WAS THE ONLY PET YOU HAD!!!
KAFF KAFF
FFF-

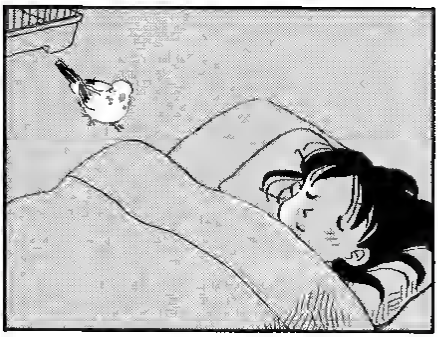

KATSUMI! YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER!
HI KIMI!

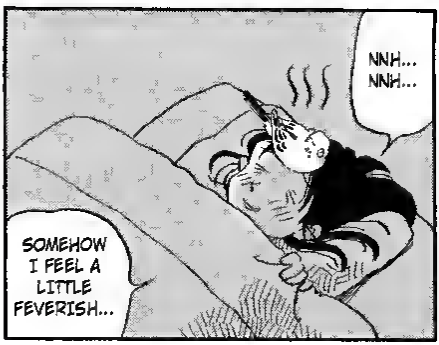
SO, WHEN YOU HAVE A COLD, YOU HAVE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF.

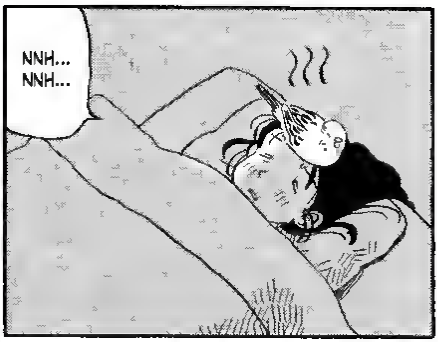

THANK YOU!
PEOPLE GAVE ME A LOT OF STUFF WHILE I WAS SICK!
I BROUGHT THIS TO SHARE.

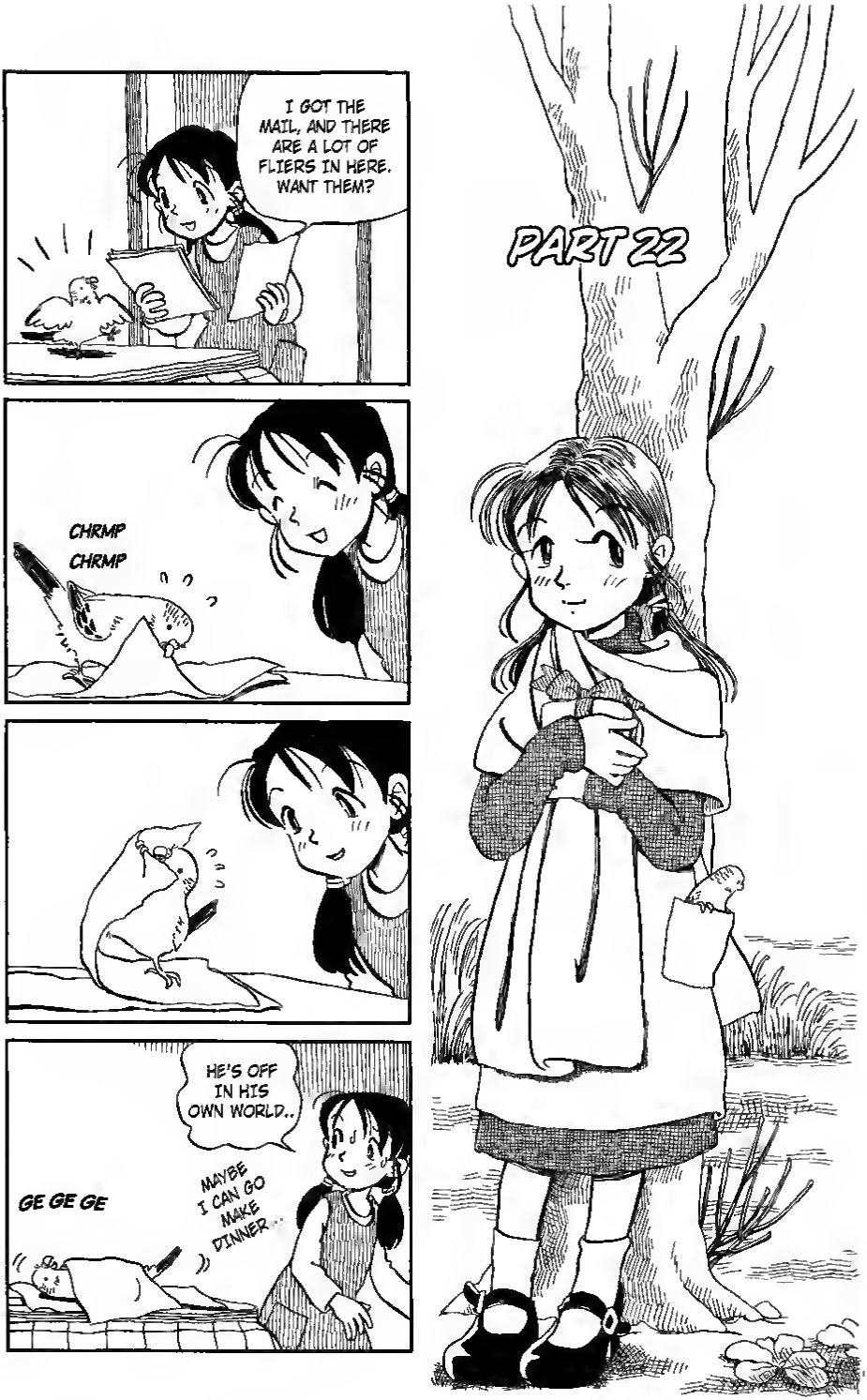
KATSUMI ENDED UP STAYING HOME FROM WORK FOR THREE DAYS IN A ROW!





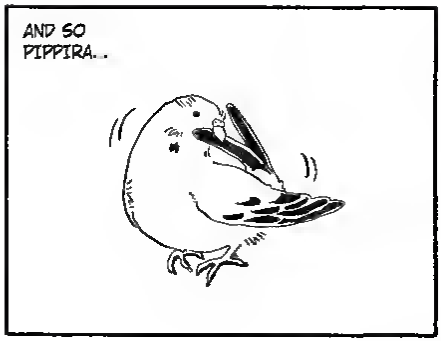

NNH... NNH...
SOMEHOW I FEEL A LITTLE FEVERISH...

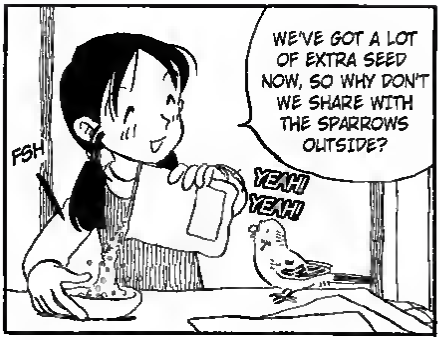

NNH... NNH...

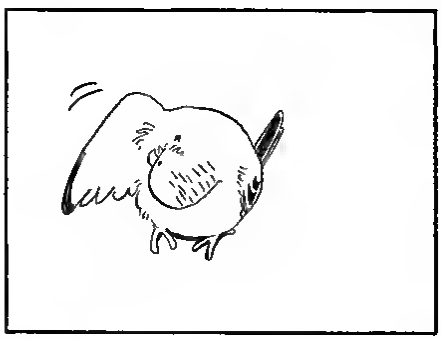

I GOT THE MAIL, AND THERE ARE A LOT OF FLIERS IN HERE. WANT THEM?
CHRMP
CHRMP
HE'S OFF IN HIS OWN WORLD..
MAYBE I CAN GO MAKE DINNER...
GE GE GE
PART 22

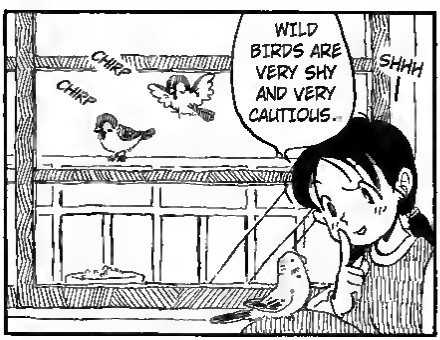
YEAH, BUT IT'D BE SAD FOR A GUY TO NOT GET A SINGLE VALENTINE'S GIFT... SO I'D BUY THEM ONE ANYWAY.
2.14 Sun
THIS YEAR'S VALENTINES IS A SUNDAY...
TAP TAP TAP
WOW!
IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT HERE YOU GO.
IT'S FRIDAY, SO...
SHRIIIP
SHHHRIP
DIAMOND
BIG SALE
WILL THIS ONE FIT IN MY BAG TOO?
MAN, DANG.
AH!
SHH, CALM DOWN, KATSUMI..
GIVE IT BACK!!!
YOU SURE ARE WEARING A LOT OF TRASH, PIPPIRA!
CHI CHI CHI CHI

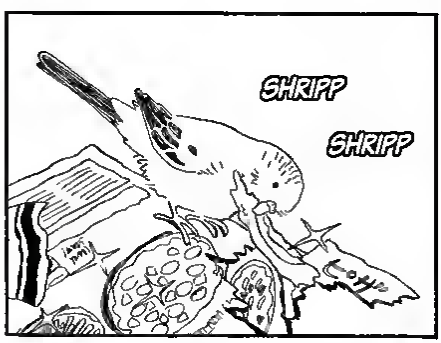
TA-DAH
CROP
IN A BIRD'S THROAT, THERE'S AN ORGAN CALLED THE CROP. IT'S LIKE A BAG AND THEY USE IT TO STORE SEED.
OH MERCI~
AHH, HERE HAVE ONE-A THESE...
THEY USE IT TO GIVE COLLECTED SEEDS TO THEIR FRIENDS.
HMM?
HERE YOU GO, THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, PIPPIRA!
NOO, IT'S OKAY! I DON'T NEED ANY!!
OH, HEY, WELCOME.
I'D LIKE SOME BIRD FEED, PLEASE!
A MILLET BALL.
PLUS.. UM...
AH.. YEAH, ALSO I'D LIKE A CUTTLE-BONE.
?
O-ONE MORE BAG OF FEED
AND UM, ALSO, UHH.. UHHHH...
I... I ABSOLUTELY COULDN'T GIVE IT TO HIM...!
BIRD FEED
BIRD FEED
BIRD FEED
MINERAL BLOCK
CUTTLE BONE
MILL BALL

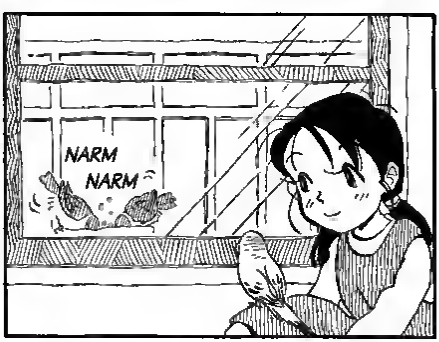

AND SO PIPPIRA...

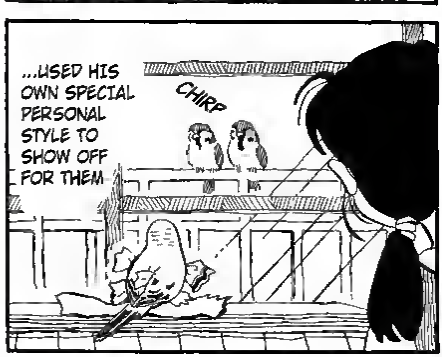

WE'VE GOT A LOT OF EXTRA SEED NOW, SO WHY DON'T WE SHARE WITH THE SPARROWS OUTSIDE?
FSH
YEAH! YEAH!

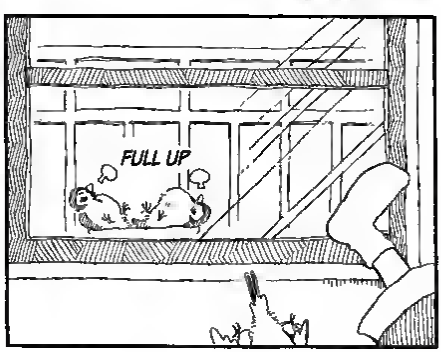



WILD BIRDS ARE VERY SHY AND VERY CAUTIOUS...
SHHH
CHIRP
CHIRP

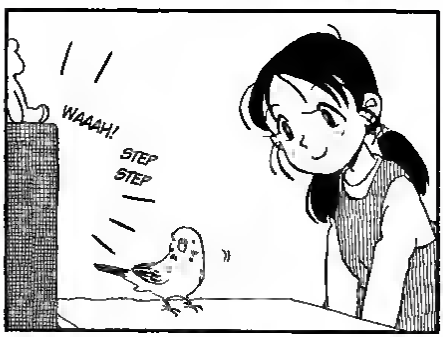

SHRIPP
SHRIPP

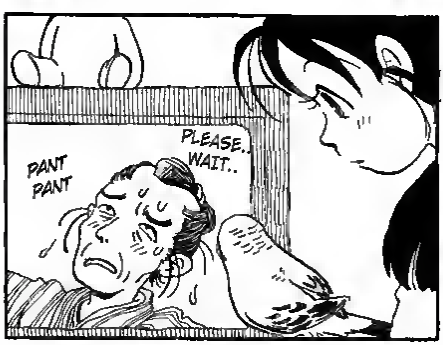

NARM NARM


...USED HIS OWN SPECIAL PERSONAL STYLE TO SHOW OFF FOR THEM
CHIRP


FULL UP

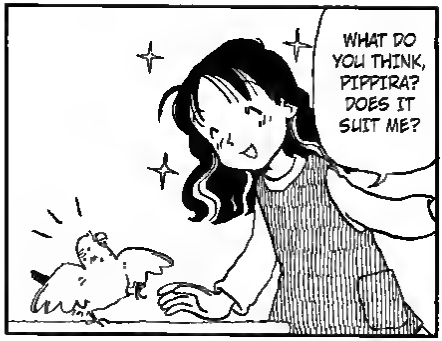
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD LOOK BEST?
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF CHANGING UP MY HAIRSTYLE.

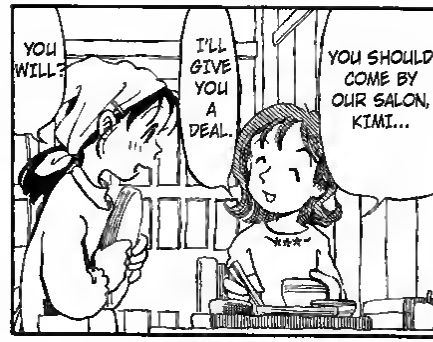

WAAAH!
STEP STEP

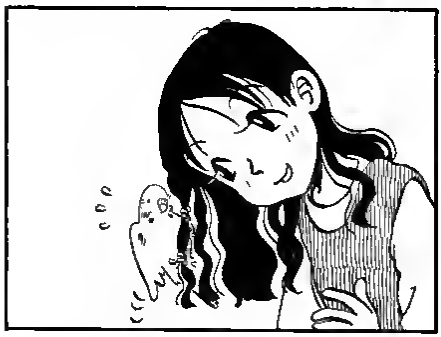

PANT PANT
PLEASE.. WAIT..

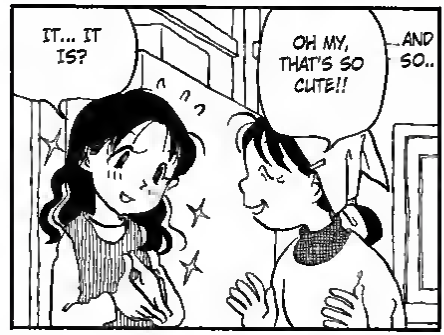
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!!
AUGH...

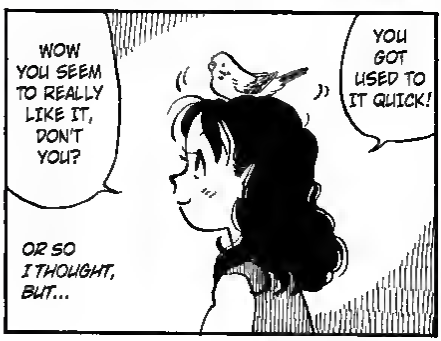
PART 23

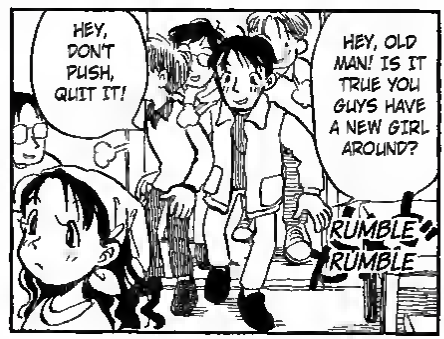

WHAT DO YOU THINK, PIPPIRA? DOES IT SUIT ME?

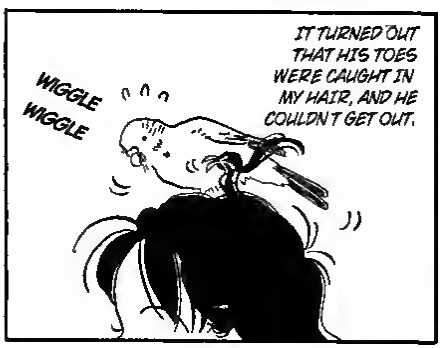

YOU WILL?
I'LL GIVE YOU A DEAL.
YOU SHOULD COME BY OUR SALON, KIMI...

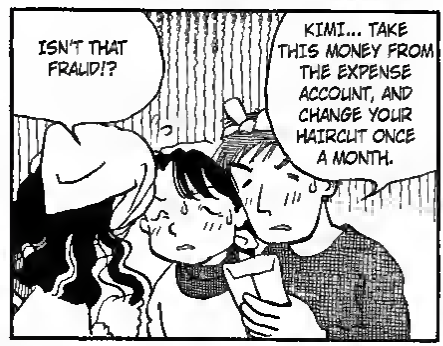


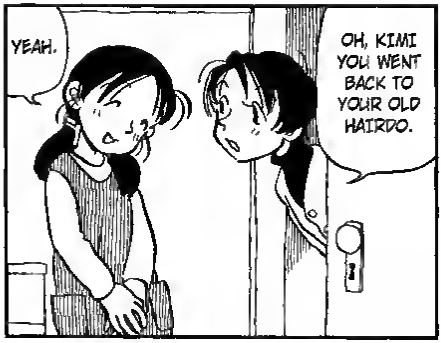

IT... IT IS?
OH MY, THAT'S SO CUTE!!
...AND SO..

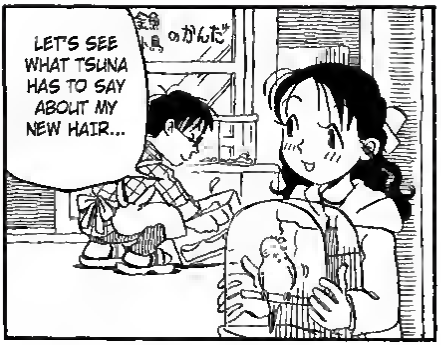

WOW YOU SEEM TO REALLY LIKE IT, DON'T YOU?
YOU GOT USED TO IT QUICK!
OR SO I THOUGHT, BUT...

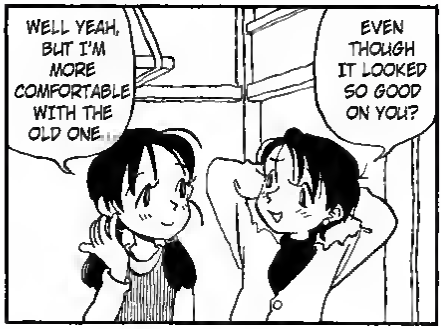

HEY, DON'T PUSH, QUIT IT!
HEY, OLD MAN! IS IT TRUE YOU GUYS HAVE A NEW GIRL AROUND?
RUMBLE RUMBLE

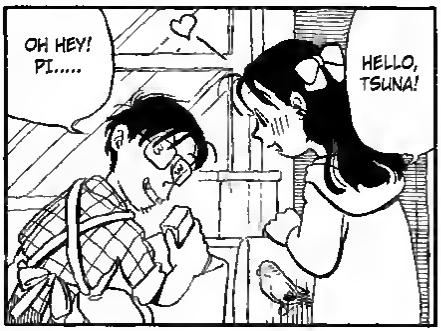

IT TURNED OUT THAT HIS TOES WERE CAUGHT IN MY HAIR, AND HE COULDN'T GET OUT.
WIGGLE WIGGLE


ISN'T THAT FRAUD!?
KIMI... TAKE THIS MONEY FROM THE EXPENSE ACCOUNT, AND CHANGE YOUR HAIRCUT ONCE A MONTH.


YEAH.
OH, KIMI YOU WENT BACK TO YOUR OLD HAIRDO.

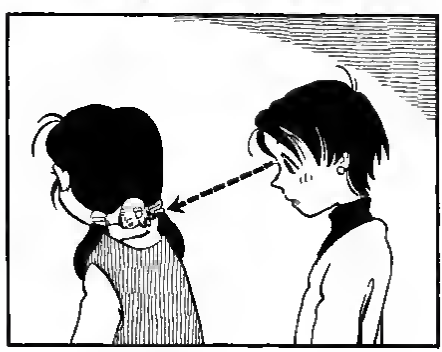

LET'S SEE WHAT TSUNA HAS TO SAY ABOUT MY NEW HAIR...


WELL YEAH, BUT I'M MORE COMFORTABLE WITH THE OLD ONE...
EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKED SO GOOD ON YOU?

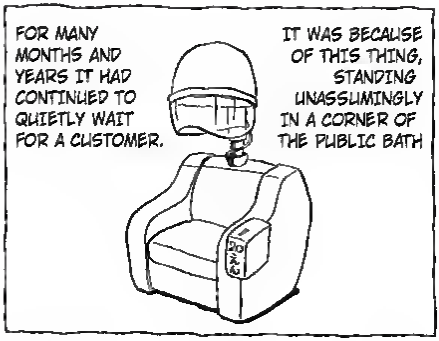

OH HEY! PI.....
HELLO, TSUNA!

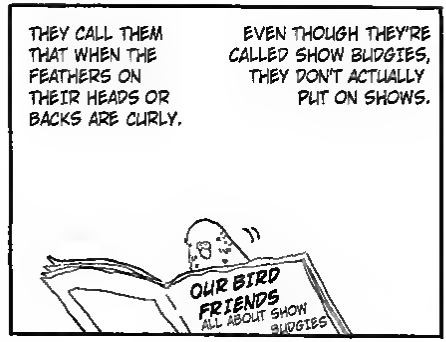
AND PIPPIRA SEEMS TO LIKE IT A LOT BETTER TOO!
YEAH YEAH

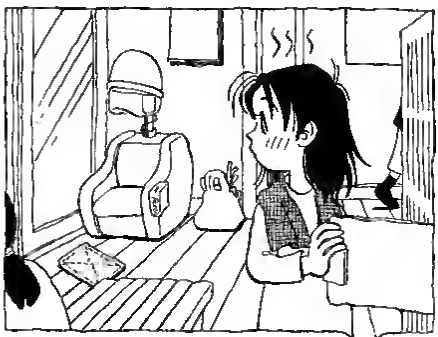
...PIRA... THIS BIRD CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE PIPPIRA...

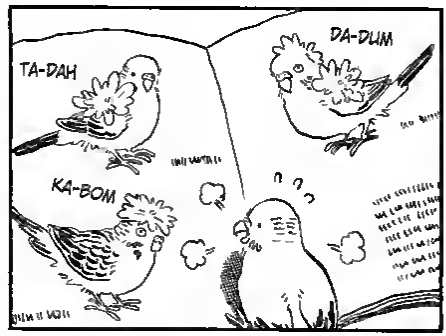


BUT WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
CHI CHI CHI
SMASH!!

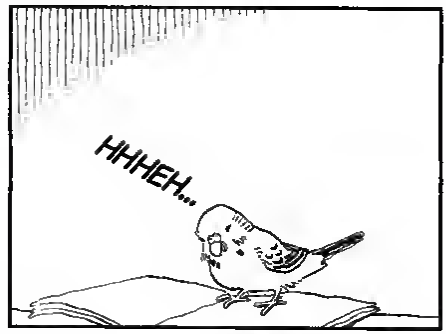

FOR MANY MONTHS AND YEARS IT HAD CONTINUED TO QUIETLY WAIT FOR A CUSTOMER.
IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS THING, STANDING UNASSUMINGLY IN A CORNER OF THE PUBLIC BATH

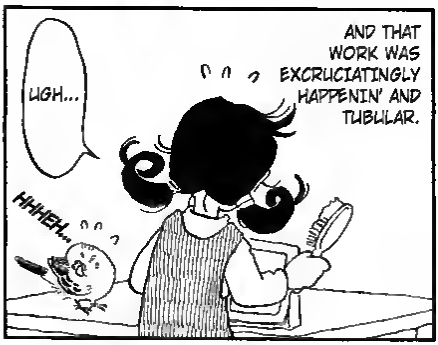

THEY CALL THEM THAT WHEN THE FEATHERS ON THEIR HEADS OR BACKS ARE CURLY.
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE CALLED SHOW BUDGIES, THEY DON'T ACTUALLY PUT ON SHOWS.
OUR BIRD FRIENDS
ALL ABOUT SHOW BUDGIES

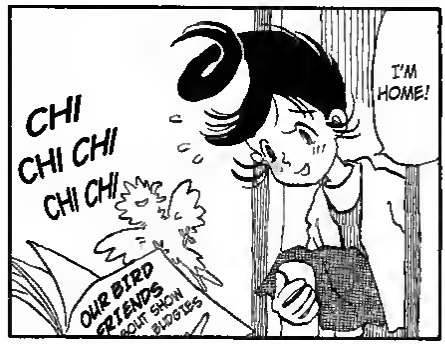


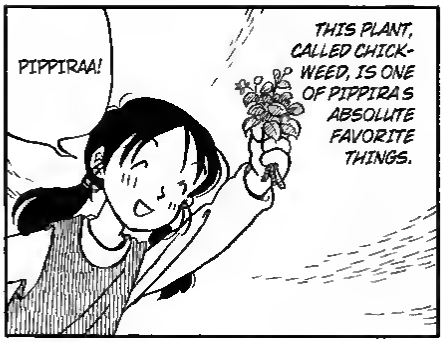

TA-DAH
DA-DUM
KA-BOM

UGH...
NNN!

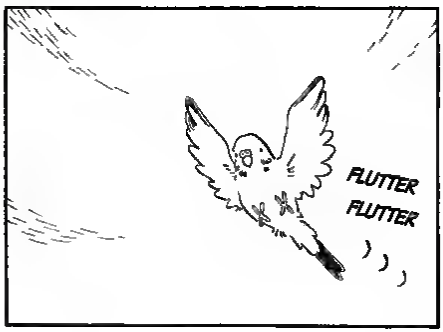

HHHEH...


UGH...
HHHEH...
AND THAT WORK WAS EXCRUCIATINGLY HAPPENIN' AND TUBULAR.

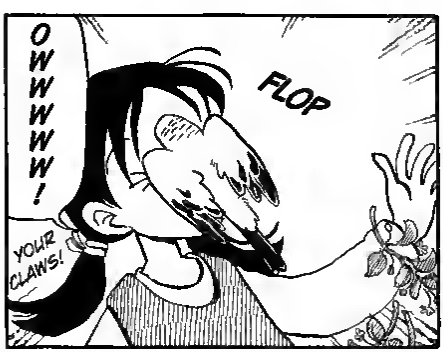

CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI
I'M HOME!
OUR BIRD FRIENDS
ALL ABOUT SHOW BUDGIES

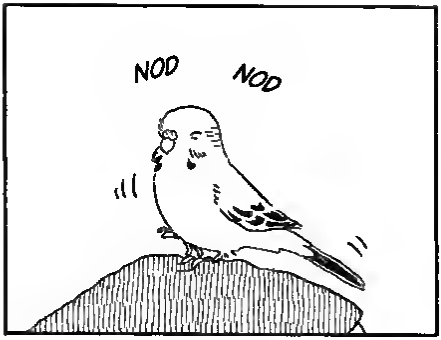

PIPPIRAA!
THIS PLANT, CALLED CHICK-WEED, IS ONE OF PIPPIRA'S ABSOLUTE FAVORITE THINGS.

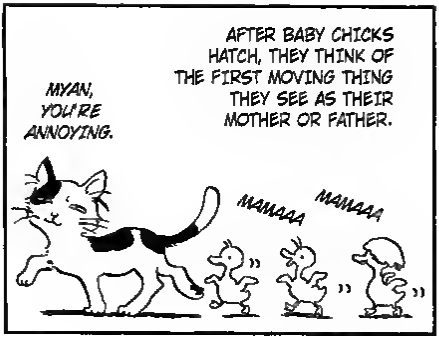
PART 24

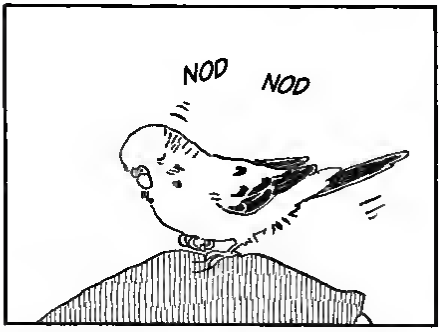

FLUTTER FLUTTER

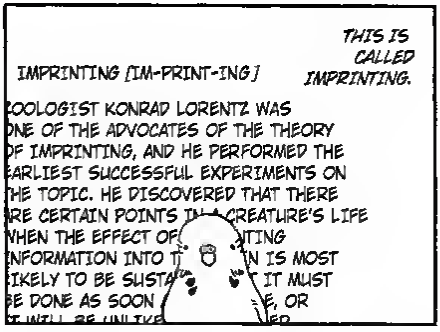
FLAPPITY FLAP

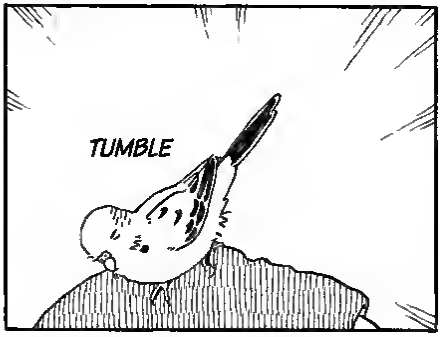

FLOP
OWWWW!
YOUR CLAWS!

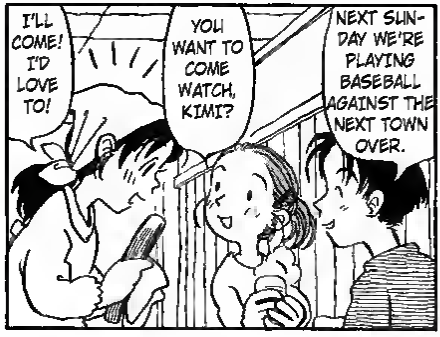

NOD
NOD

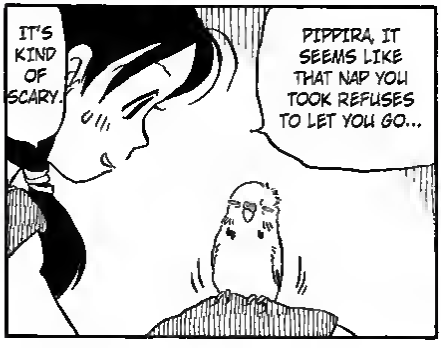

AFTER BABY CHICKS HATCH, THEY THINK OF THE FIRST MOVING THING THEY SEE AS THEIR MOTHER OR FATHER.
MYAN, YOU'RE ANNOYING.
MAMAAA
MAMAAA


NOD
NOD

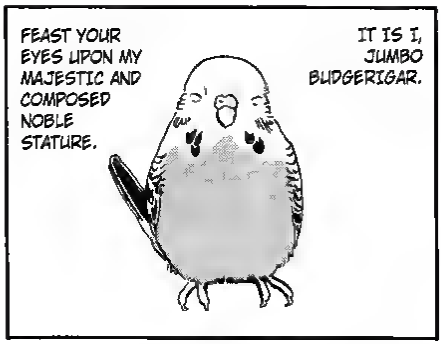

THIS IS CALLED IMPRINTING.
IMPRINTING [IM-PRINT-ING]
OOLOGIST KONRAD LORENTZ WAS
NE OF THE ADVOCATES OF THE THEORY
F IMPRINTING, AND HE PERFORMED THE
ARLIEST SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENTS ON
HE TOPIC. HE DISCOVERED THAT THERE
RE CERTAIN POINTS IN A CREATURE'S LIFE
HEN THE EFFECT OF ITING
NFORMATION INTO T N IS MOST
IKELY TO BE SUSTA IT MUST
E DONE AS SOON E, OR

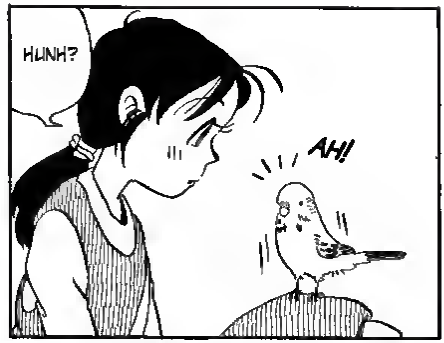

TUMBLE

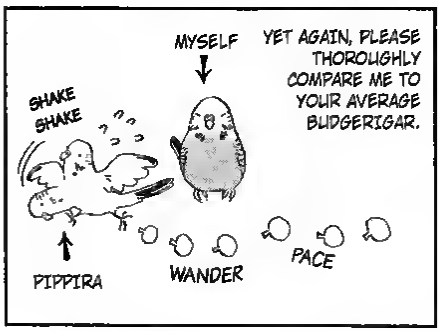

I'LL COME! I'D LOVE TO!
YOU WANT TO COME WATCH, KIMI?
NEXT SUNDAY WE'RE PLAYING BASEBALL AGAINST THE NEXT TOWN OVER.

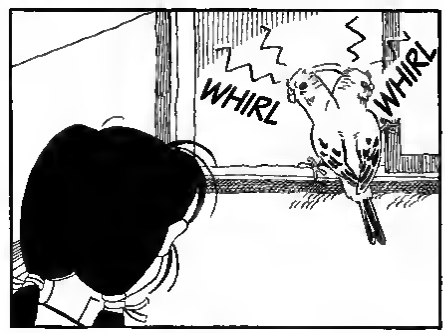

IT'S KIND OF SCARY.
PIPPIRA, IT SEEMS LIKE THAT NAP YOU TOOK REFUSES TO LET YOU GO...

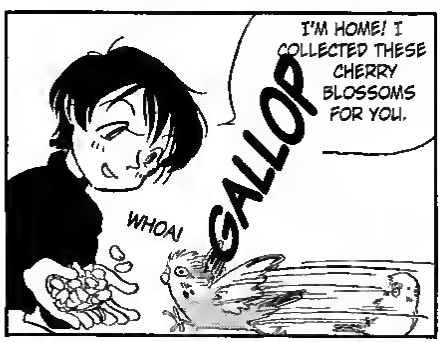
MAYBE IF WE WERE THE YANKEES OR GIANTS...
THIS ISN'T THE WAY YOU GUYS GO AND WATCH A BASEBALL GAME?
HUH?
SUCH IS THE WAY OF LEARNED BEHAVIOR...
WIN
CARP
CARP

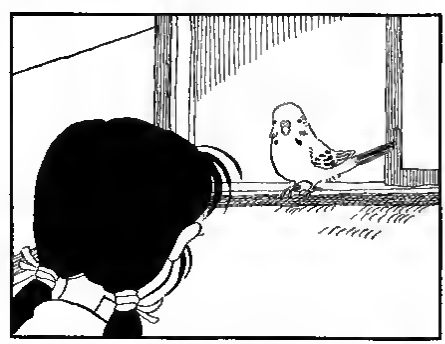

FEAST YOUR EYES UPON MY MAJESTIC AND COMPOSED NOBLE STATURE.
IT IS I, JUMBO BUDGERIGAR.

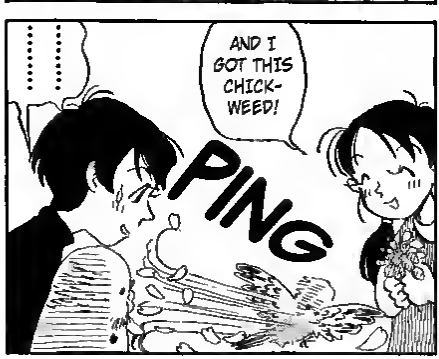

HUNH?
AH!

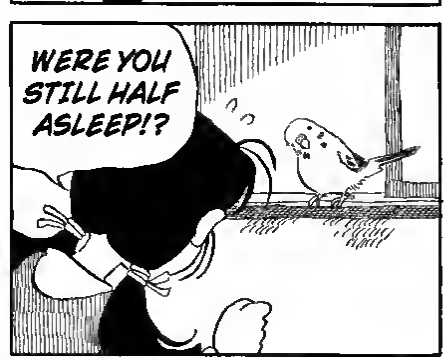

MYSELF
YET AGAIN, PLEASE THOROUGHLY COMPARE ME TO YOUR AVERAGE BUDGERIGAR.
SHAKE SHAKE
PIPPIRA
WANDER
PACE


WHIRL
WHIRL

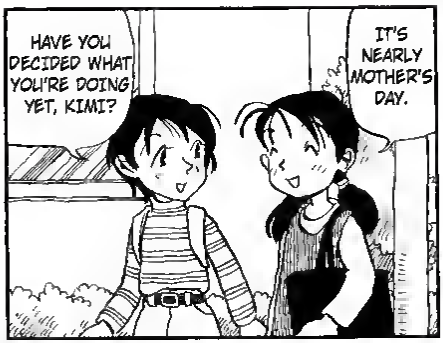

I'M HOME! I COLLECTED THESE CHERRY BLOSSOMS FOR YOU.
GALLOP
WHOA!




AND I GOT THIS CHICK-WEED!
PING

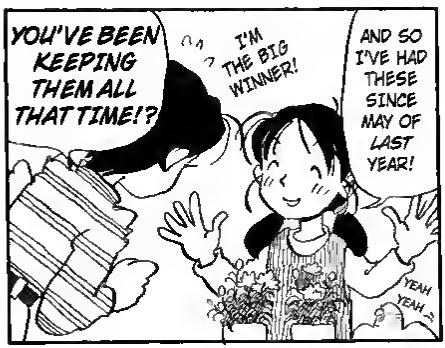

WERE YOU STILL HALF ASLEEP!?

ONE WONDERS WHERE THE CLOUDS MEAN TO GO...
OH, I KNOW! LEAVE IT TO ME!
I'D LIKE TO GIVE SOME CHICKWEED TO THE BIRDS IN THE STORE, BUT I'M NOT SURE WHERE IT GROWS.
HOW FAR THE SKY EXTENDS BEYOND THE HORIZON...
AND THEN THERE'S A CLUMP OF IT OVER IN THAT SHADE.
OVER AND THERE, THERE,
AND ALSO...
KIMI-KO..
SO AS NOT TO KILL THE ROOTS, THE TRICK IS TO ONLY TAKE A LITTLE AT A TIME.
...WHERE PIPPIRA WILL POP OUT FROM NEXT...
WELL, SOMETIMES, BEFORE I GET PAID I MAKE IT..
SEASONED OR TEMPURA OR WITH SESAME SEEDS.
YOU KNOW WAY TOO MUCH ABOUT THIS...

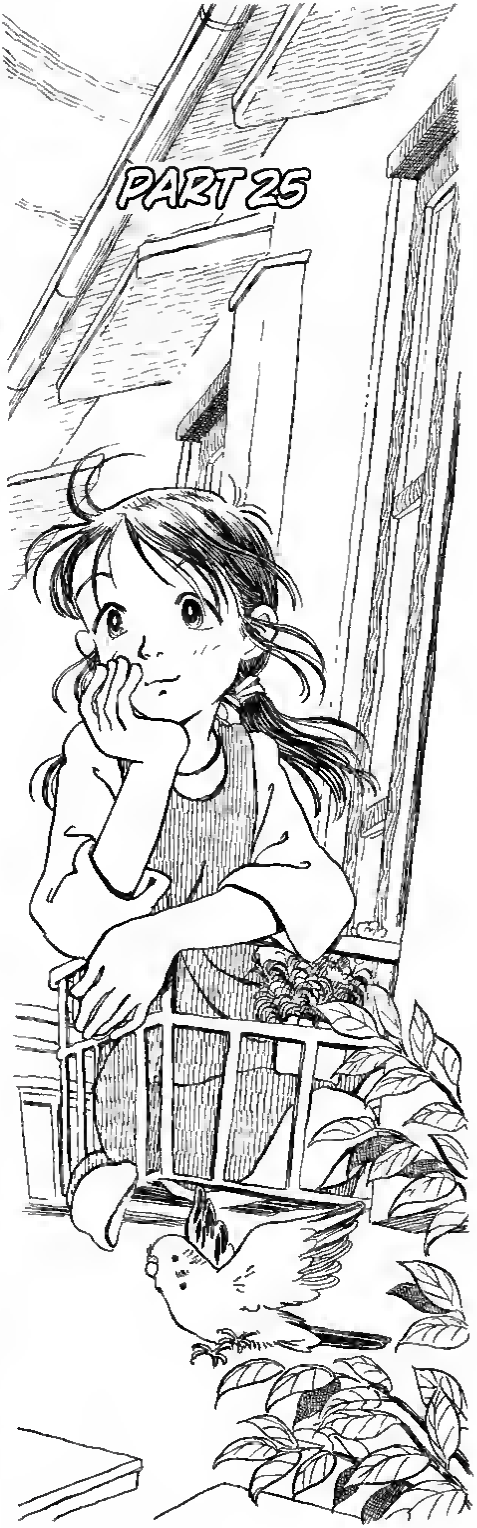

HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU'RE DOING YET, KIMI?
IT'S NEARLY MOTHER'S DAY.

YEAH! I DID A WHILE AGO!

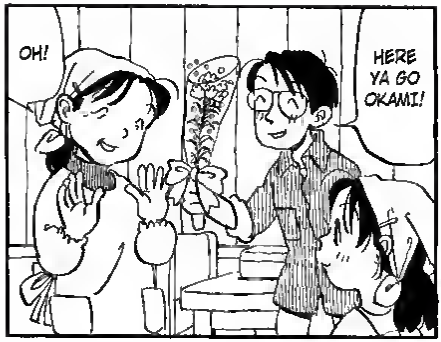
FLOWER AND GRASS
FLOWER SHOP
SPECIAL!
100¯

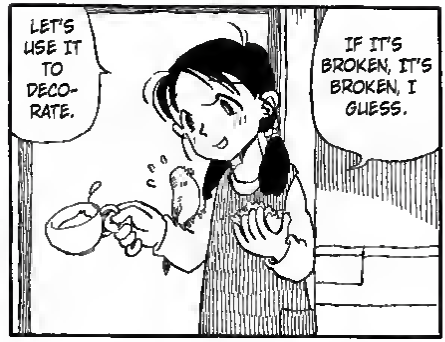

YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING THEM ALL THAT TIME!?
I'M THE BIG WINNER!
AND SO I'VE HAD THESE SINCE MAY OF LAST YEAR!
YEAH YEAH

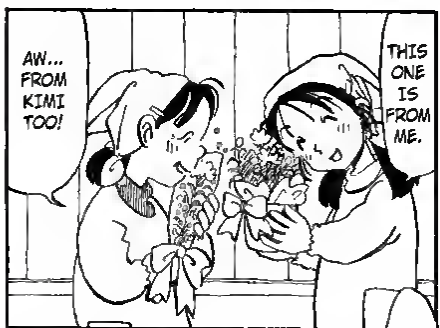
PART 25

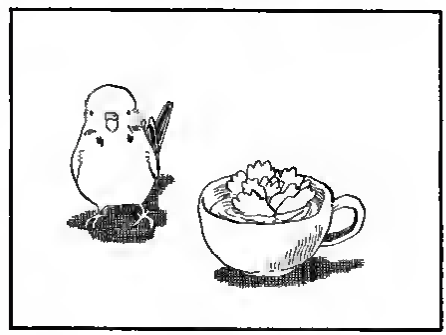


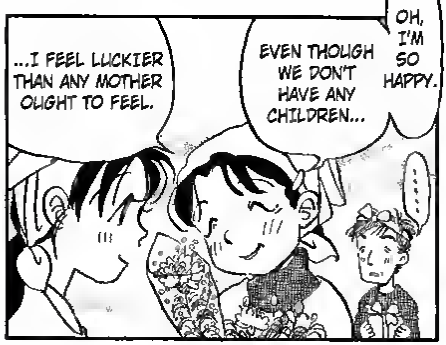
SIZZLE
KRRK
AH!
SOMEHOW I FEEL AS IF THIS IS AN ILL OMEN OF SOME KIND...
WHAT IS THIS...
THAT DOES NOT COUNT AS FIXED!!
PII?
AA!!
I KNEW IT!!
KRRK

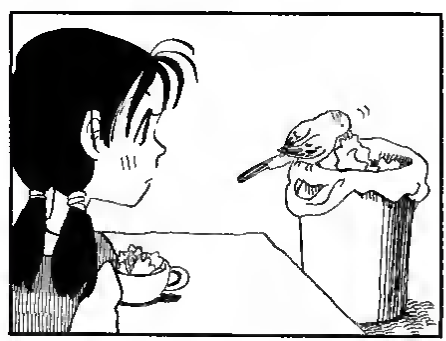

OH!
HERE YA GO OKAMI!

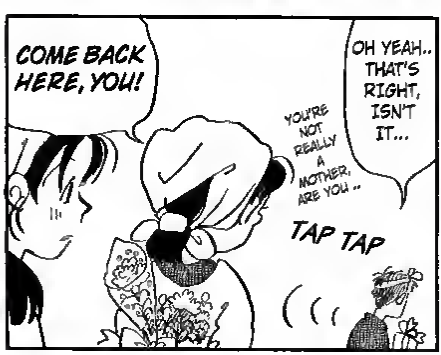

LET'S USE IT TO DECO-RATE.
IF IT'S BROKEN, IT'S BROKEN, I GUESS.

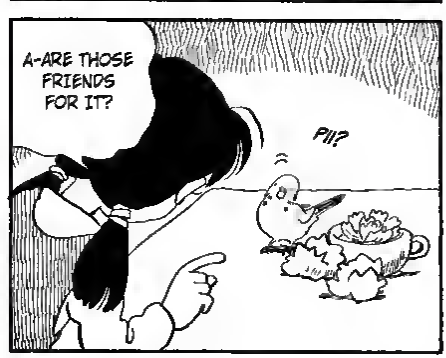

AW... FROM KIMI TOO!
THIS ONE IS FROM ME.



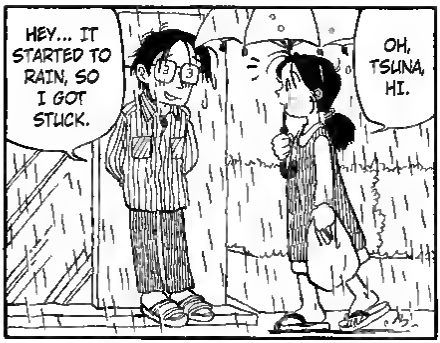

...I FEEL LUCKIER THAN ANY MOTHER OUGHT TO FEEL.
EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN...
OH, I'M SO HAPPY.

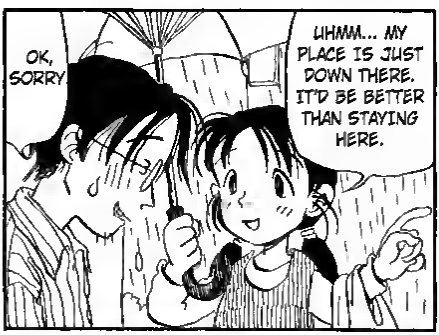


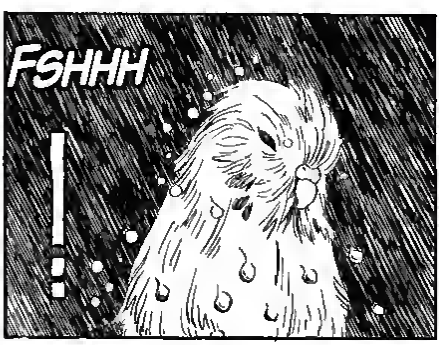

COME BACK HERE, YOU!
OH YEAH.. THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT...
YOU'RE NOT REALLY A MOTHER, ARE YOU..
TAP TAP

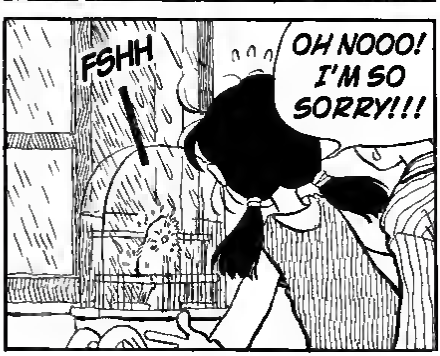

A-ARE THOSE FRIENDS FOR IT?
PII?

THAT RE-MINDS ME...
HI MOM!
THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS, KIMIKO!
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF BIRD SHE IS...
YOU'VE GOT A MOM OUT THERE TOO, PIPPIRA...
THE ONES I GOT FROM EVERYONE ELSE WERE NEARLY FINISHED BLOOMING. YOUR GIFT JUST STARTED, SO I'M HAPPY.
YES! I GOT QUITE A LOT OF FLOWERS, BUT...
BUT WHAT THE TWO LADIES AND ONE BIRD DID NOT KNOW AT THE TIME...
OH GOOD!
TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE
A SCARY ONE!?
...WAS THAT THERE WAS ONE MORE WHO WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THOSE FLOWERS....
CHOMP
CHOMP


HEY... IT STARTED TO RAIN, SO I GOT STUCK.
OH, TSUNA, HI.


OK, SORRY.
UHMM... MY PLACE IS JUST DOWN THERE. IT'D BE BETTER THAN STAYING HERE.

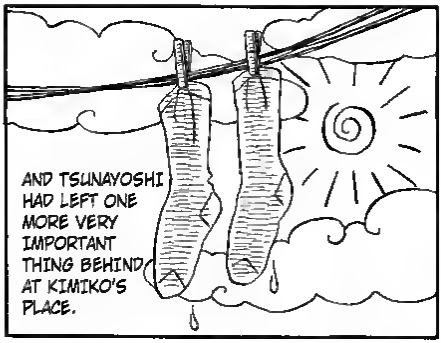

FSHHH

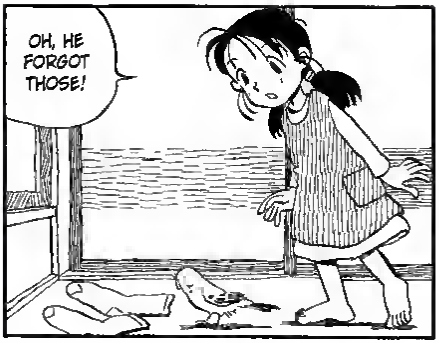

FSHH
OH NOOO! I'M SO SORRY!!!

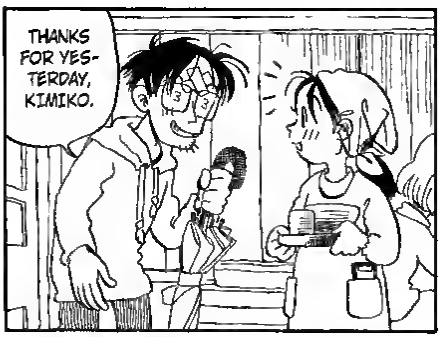
PART 26

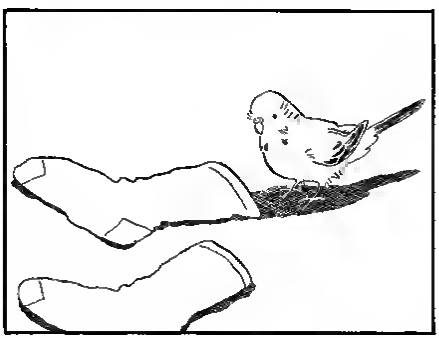
IT'S FINE, JUST FINE.
HEY, PIPPIRA!
YEAH.
IT SURE IS COMING DOWN!
RUB RUB
PII PII
IT REMINDS ME OF THE WAY THE JAVA SPARROW WE USED TO HAVE AT MY PARENTS' ACTED...
HE WAS A CHEEKY KIDDO, JUST LIKE PIPPIRA HERE.
PLOP PLOP
IT'S OKAY.
PLOP PLOP...
I'M COOL!
FSH
AH, DON'T GO TO ANY TROUBLE...

NO PROB-LEM!
THANKS FOR HAVING ME.
WELL, I BETTER BE GOING
HOW ABOUT SOME DINNER? I CAN RUN OUT AND BUY SOME FOR US!
OH YEAH!
TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF.
...SEE YOU LATER.
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, RUNNING FOR FOOD IS MY SPECIALTY!
.....
.....
SIGH
YOU'LL BREAK IN HALF!
REALLY?
I'M FINE.

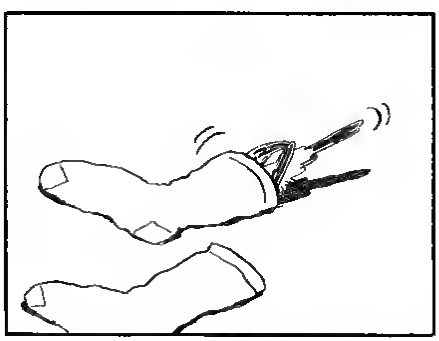

AND TSUNAYOSHI HAD LEFT ONE MORE VERY IMPORTANT THING BEHIND AT KIMIKO'S PLACE.

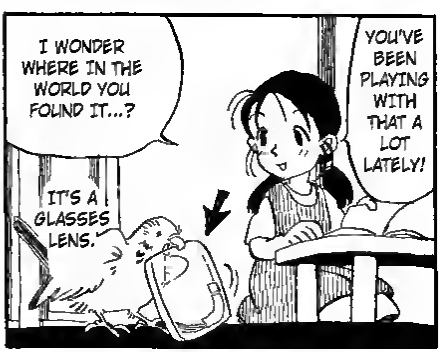

OH, HE FORGOT THOSE!

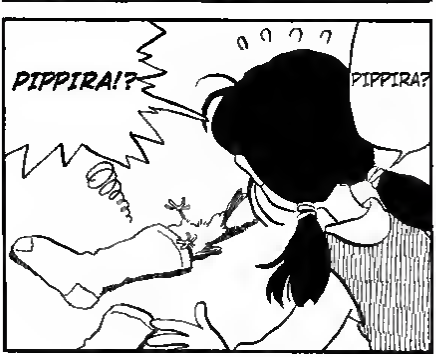

THANKS FOR YESTERDAY, KIMIKO.

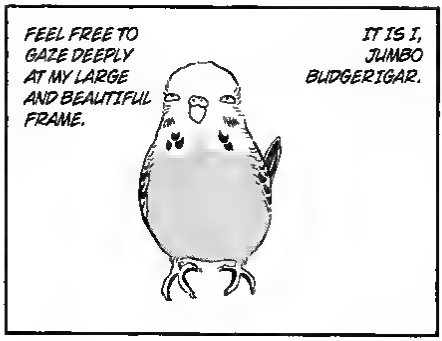


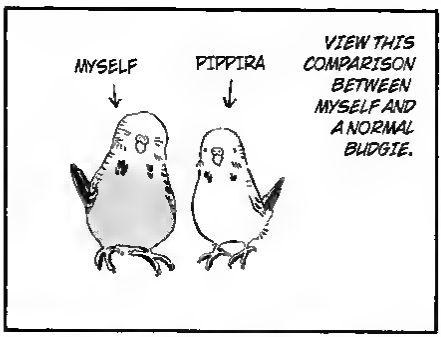
……?
小鳥金魚
IN THANKS.
THIS IS FOR THE OTHER DAY...

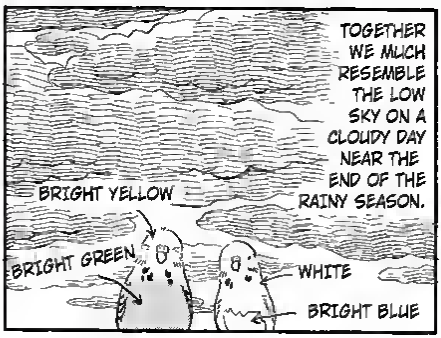


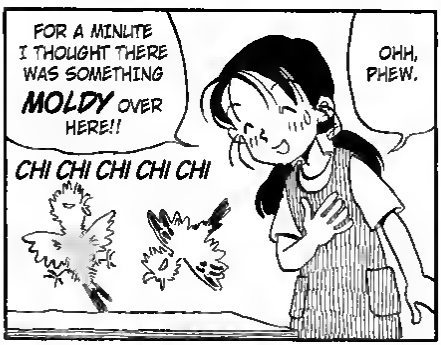

I WONDER WHERE IN THE WORLD YOU FOUND IT...?
IT'S A GLASSES LENS.
YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH THAT A LOT LATELY!


PIPPIRA!?
PIPPIRA?

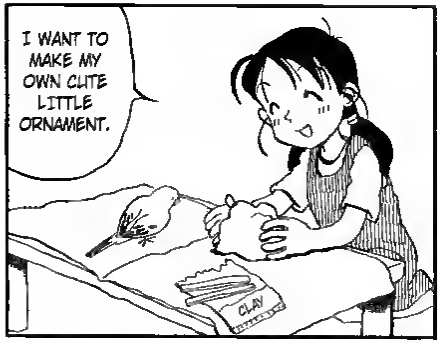

FEEL FREE TO GAZE DEEPLY AT MY LARGE AND BEAUTIFUL FRAME.
IT IS I, JUMBO BUDGERIGAR.

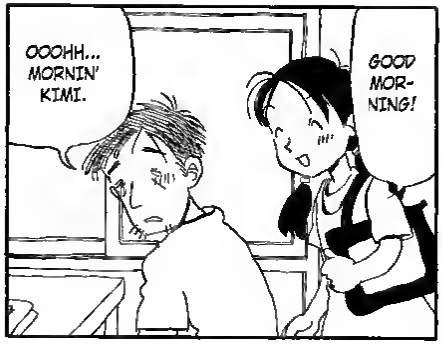

MYSELF
PIPPIRA
VIEW THIS COMPARISON BETWEEN MYSELF AND A NORMAL BUDGIE.

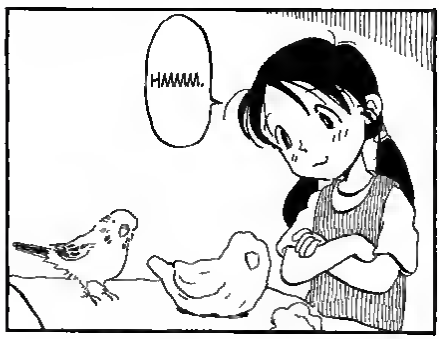

TOGETHER WE MUCH RESEMBLE THE LOW SKY ON A CLOUDY DAY NEAR THE END OF THE RAINY SEASON.
BRIGHT YELLOW
BRIGHT GREEN
WHITE
BRIGHT BLUE

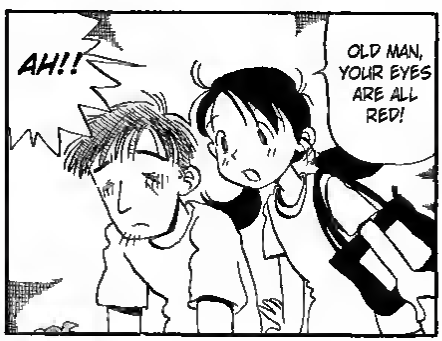

FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING MOLDY OVER HERE!!
OHH, PHEW.
CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI

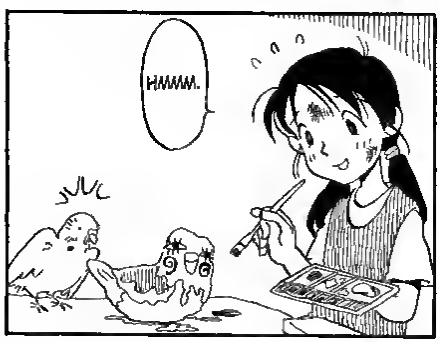
PART 27

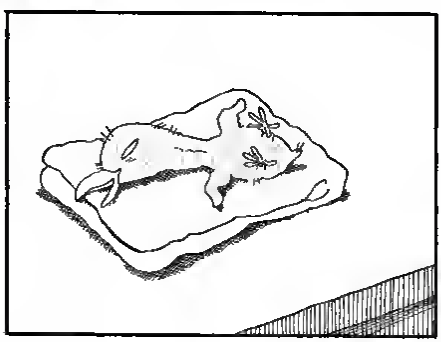

I WANT TO MAKE MY OWN CUTE LITTLE ORNAMENT.
CLAY

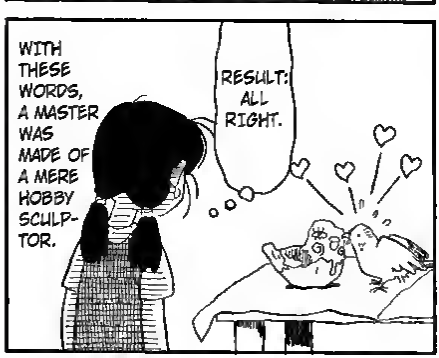

OOOHH... MORNIN' KIMI.
GOOD MOR-NING!

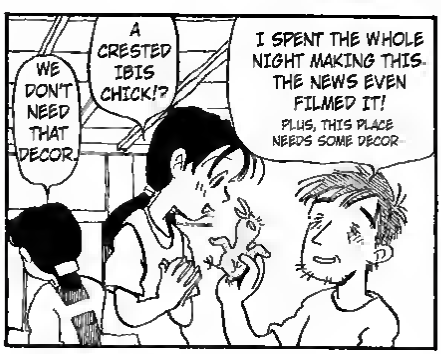

HMMM.

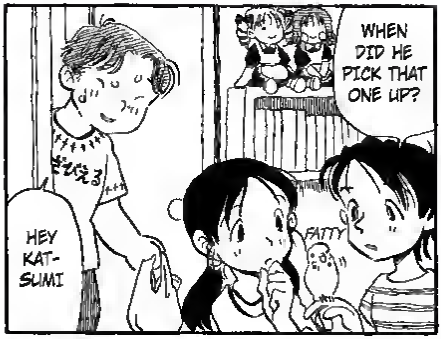

AH!!
OLD MAN, YOUR EYES ARE ALL RED!

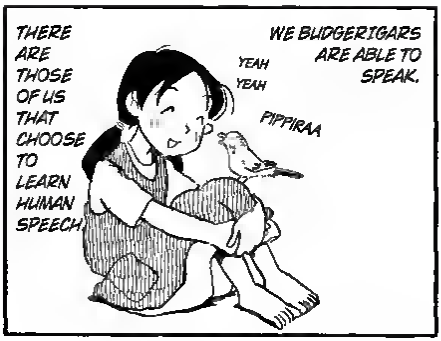

HMMM.

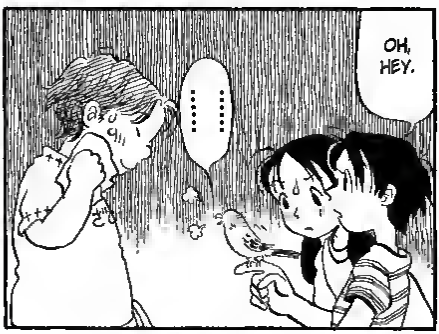


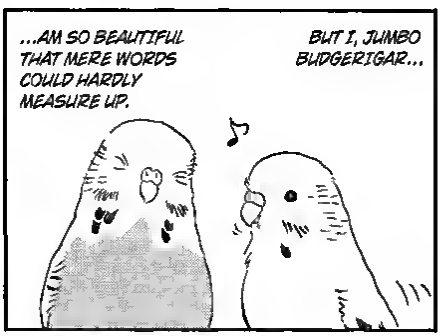

WITH THESE WORDS, A MASTER WAS MADE OF A MERE HOBBY SCULP-TOR.
RESULT: ALL RIGHT.

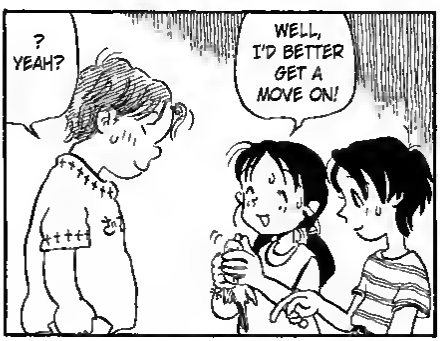

WE DON'T NEED THAT DECOR.
A CRESTED IBIS CHICK!?
I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT MAKING THIS. THE NEWS EVEN FILMED IT!
PLUS, THIS PLACE NEEDS SOME DECOR

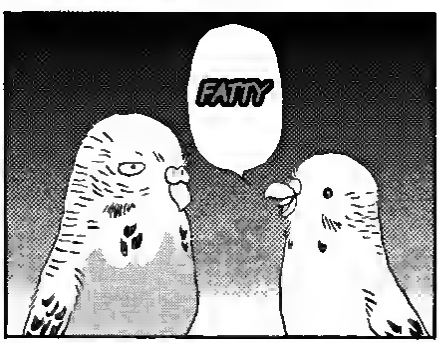

WHEN DID HE PICK THAT ONE UP?
HEY KAT-SUMI
FATTY

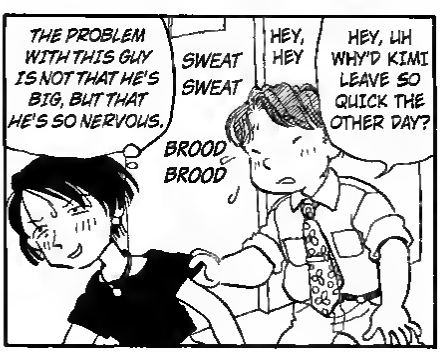

THERE ARE THOSE OF US THAT CHOOSE TO LEARN HUMAN SPEECH
WE BUDGERIGARS ARE ABLE TO SPEAK.
YEAH YEAH
PIPPIRAA

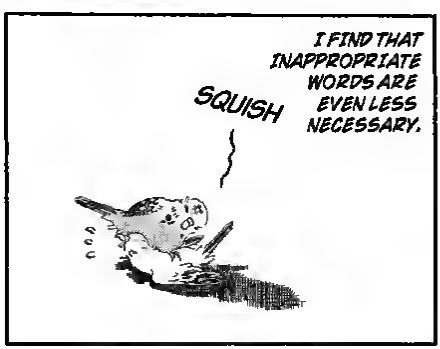

OH, HEY.
.....

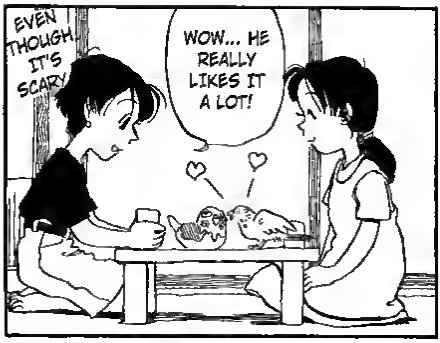

...AM SO BEAUTIFUL THAT MERE WORDS COULD HARDLY MEASURE UP.
BUT I, JUMBO BUDGERIGAR...

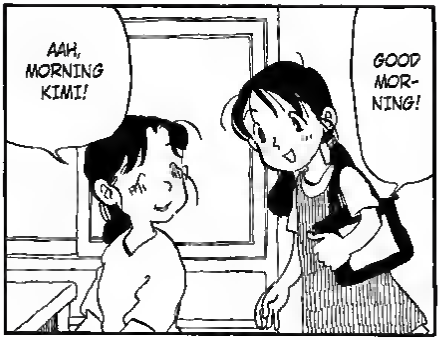

? YEAH?
WELL, I'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON!

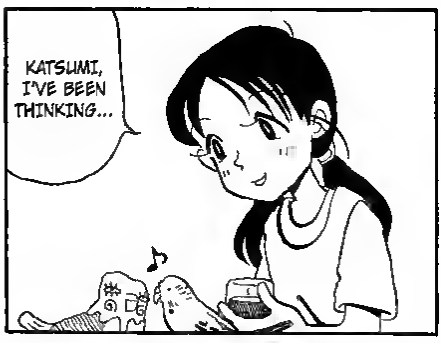

FATTY


THE PROBLEM WITH THIS GUY IS NOT THAT HE'S BIG, BUT THAT HE'S SO NERVOUS.
SWEAT SWEAT
BROOD BROOD
HEY, HEY
HEY, UH WHY'D KIMI LEAVE SO QUICK THE OTHER DAY?

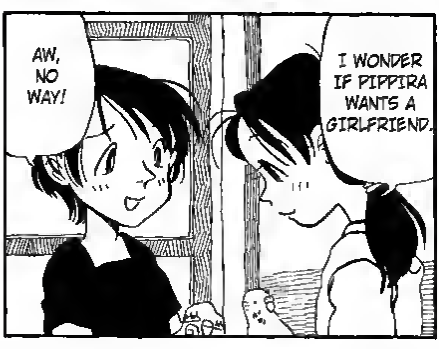

I FIND THAT INAPPROPRIATE WORDS ARE EVEN LESS NECESSARY.
SQUISH

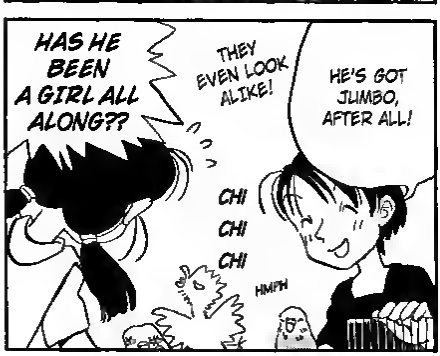

EVEN THOUGH IT'S SCARY
WOW... HE REALLY LIKES IT A LOT!

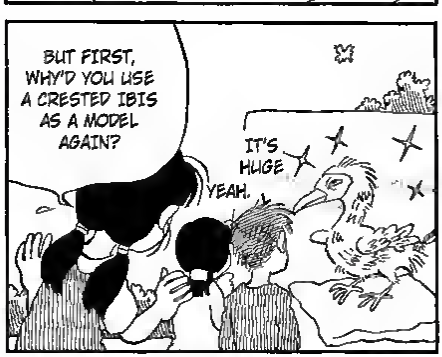

AAH, MORNING KIMI!
GOOD MOR-NING!

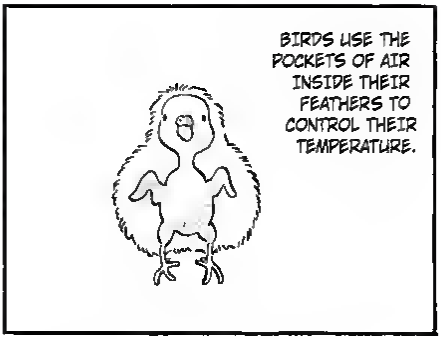

KATSUMI, I'VE BEEN THINKING...

I WANTED TO MAKE A PICTURE TO DECORATE THE STORE. I PULLED AN ALL-NIGHTER.
OH, OKAMI, YOUR EYES ARE ALL RED....

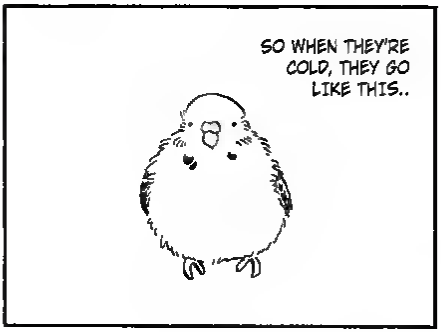

AW, NO WAY!
I WONDER IF PIPPIRA WANTS A GIRLFRIEND.

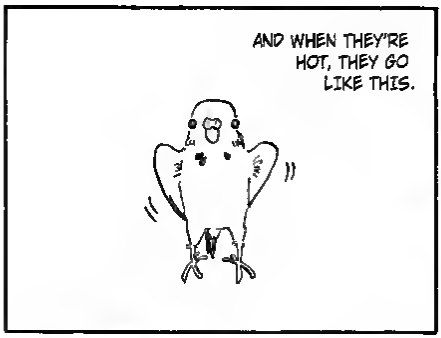

HAS HE BEEN A GIRL ALL ALONG??
THEY EVEN LOOK ALIKE!
HE'S GOT JUMBO, AFTER ALL!
CHI
CHI
CHI
HMPH

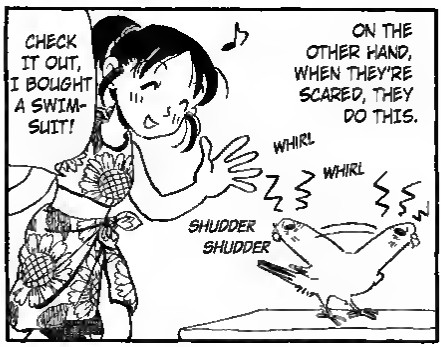

BUT FIRST, WHY'D YOU USE A CRESTED IBIS AS A MODEL AGAIN?
IT'S HUGE
YEAH.

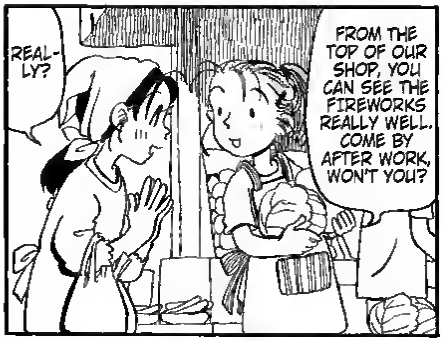

BIRDS USE THE POCKETS OF AIR INSIDE THEIR FEATHERS TO CONTROL THEIR TEMPERATURE.

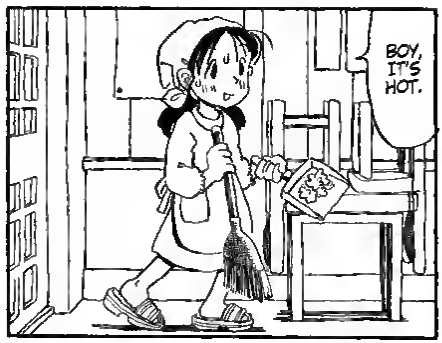
PART 28

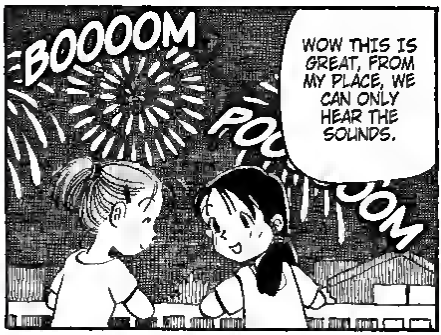

SO WHEN THEY'RE COLD, THEY GO LIKE THIS..

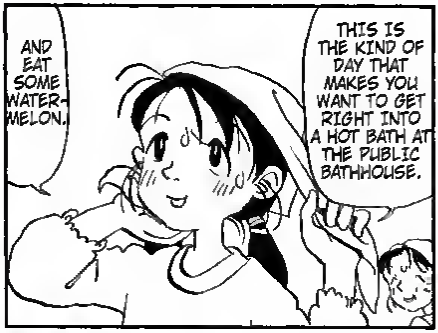

AND WHEN THEY'RE HOT, THEY GO LIKE THIS.

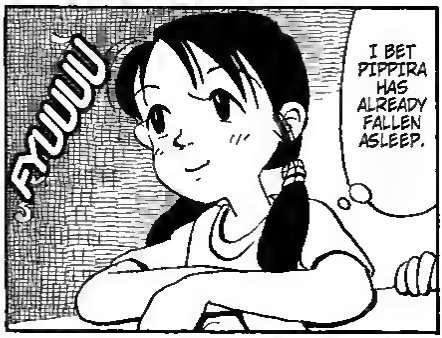

CHECK IT OUT, I BOUGHT A SWIM-SUIT!
ON THE OTHER HAND, WHEN THEY'RE SCARED, THEY DO THIS.
WHIRL
WHIRL
SHUDDER
SHUDDER

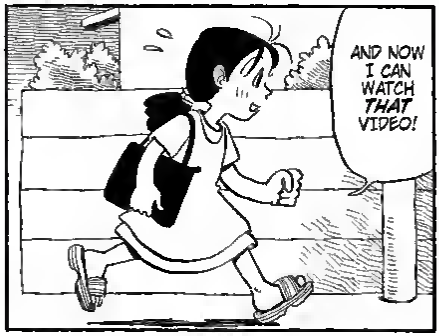

REAL-LY?
FROM THE TOP OF OUR SHOP, YOU CAN SEE THE FIREWORKS REALLY WELL. COME BY AFTER WORK, WON'T YOU?

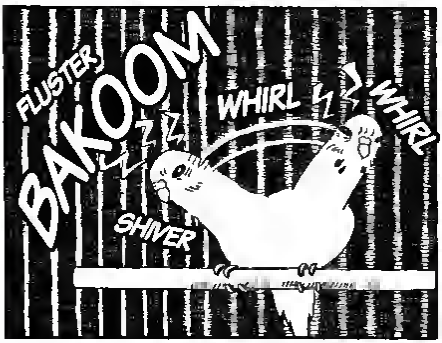

BOY, IT'S HOT.

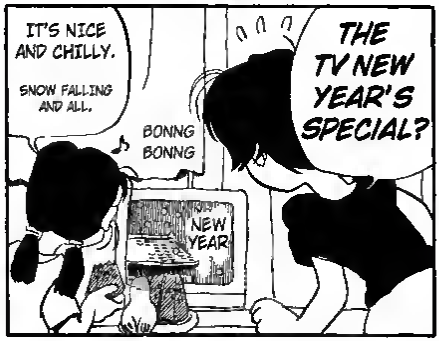

BOOOOM
POO
OOM
WOW THIS IS GREAT. FROM MY PLACE, WE CAN ONLY HEAR THE SOUNDS.


AND EAT SOME WATER-MELON.
THIS IS THE KIND OF DAY THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO GET RIGHT INTO A HOT BATH AT THE PUBLIC BATHHOUSE.

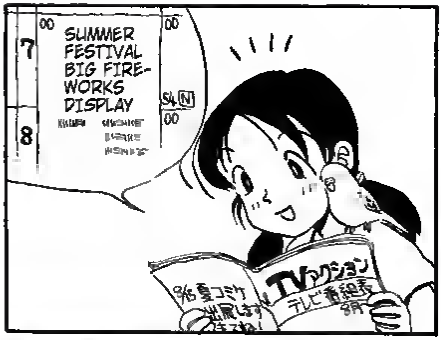

FUWWW
I BET PIPPIRA HAS ALREADY FALLEN ASLEEP.

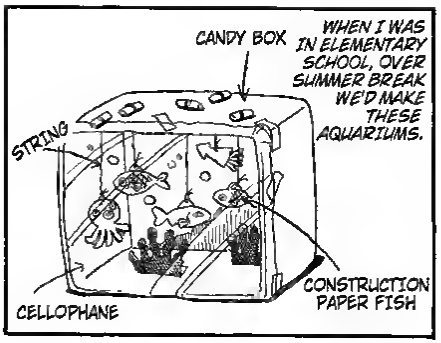

AND NOW I CAN WATCH THAT VIDEO!

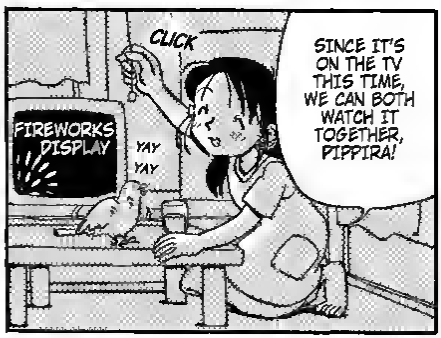

FLUSTER
BAKOOM
WHIRL
WHIRL
SHINER

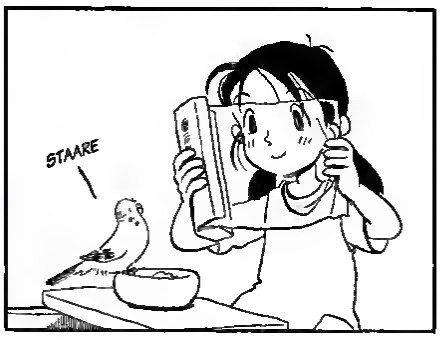

IT'S NICE AND CHILLY.
SNOW FALLING AND ALL.
BONNG BONNG
NEW YEAR
THE TV NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL?

HERE, I GOT YOU A GIFT!
DING DING
SO HOT, SO HOT.
IT REALLY IS.
NAH, THAT'S NOT REALLY TRUE.
KIMI YOU SEEM TO BE JUST FINE.
SSSSHHHH
ACTUALLY CAN WE STOP THERE FOR A SEC?
I MEAN, I COMPLETELY FORGOT TO BRING MY HAT.
HMM..
SSSSHHHH
KIMI!?
HOLLOW THAT ONE OUT FOR ME?
HEY MISTER, CAN YOU..

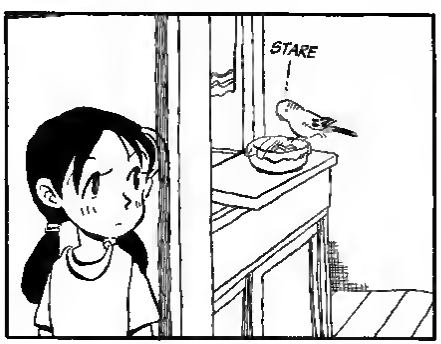

7
8
SUMMER FESTIVAL BIG FIRE-WORKS DISPLAY
TV

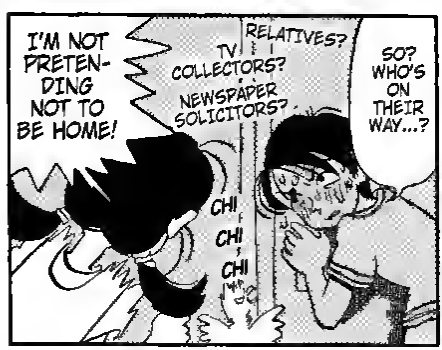

CANDY BOX
WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, OVER SUMMER BREAK WE'D MAKE THESE AQUARIUMS.
STRING
CELLOPHANE
CONSTRUCTION PAPER FISH

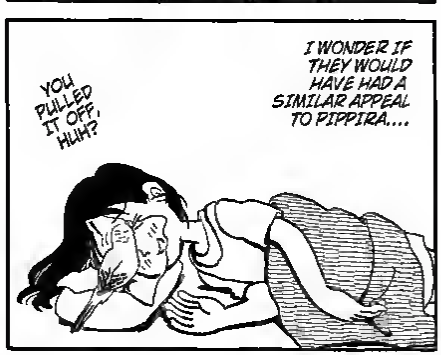

CLICK
SINCE IT'S ON THE TV THIS TIME, WE CAN BOTH WATCH IT TOGETHER, PIPPIRA!
FIREWORKS DISPLAY
YAY
YAY

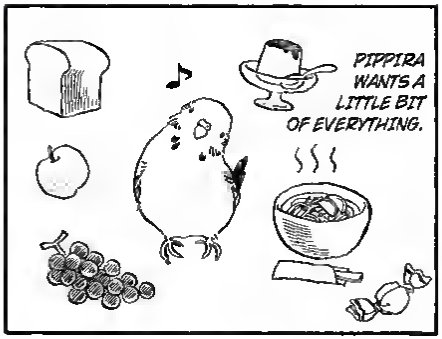

STAARE

KIMI!
IT'S ME, KATSUMI
KNOCK KNOCK
BAKOOM
FSH FSH

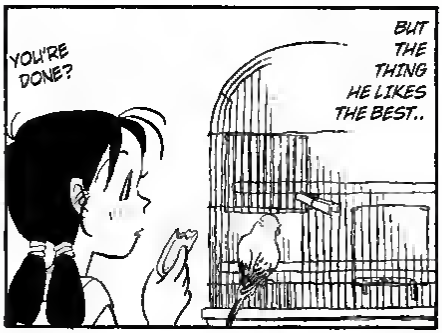

STARE

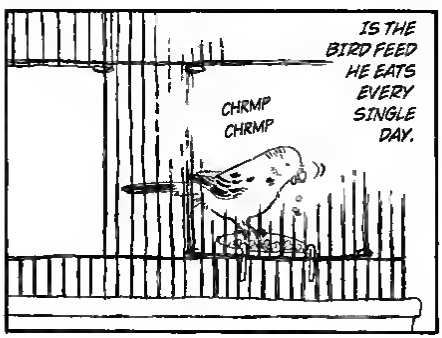

I'M NOT PRETEN-DING NOT TO BE HOME!
TV COLLECTORS?
RELATIVES?
NEWSPAPER SOLICITORS?
SO? WHO'S ON THEIR WAY...?
CHI
CHI
CHI


YOU PULLED IT OFF, HUH?
I WONDER IF THEY WOULD HAVE HAD A SIMILAR APPEAL TO PIPPIRA....


PIPPIRA WANTS A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING.

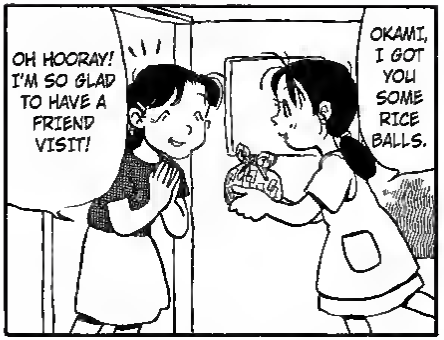
PART 29

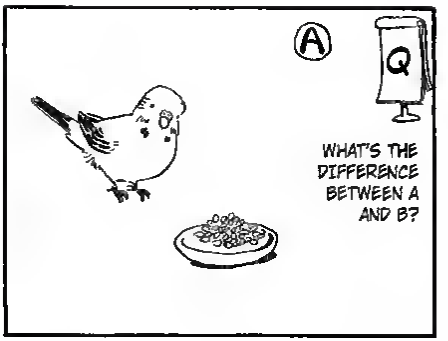

YOU'RE DONE?
BUT THE THING HE LIKES THE BEST..

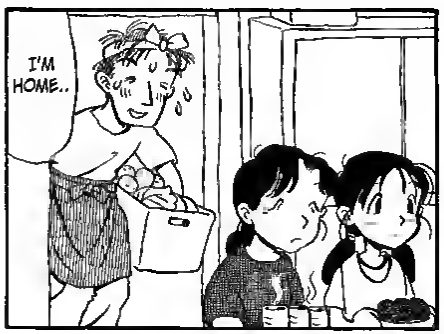

IS THE BIRD FEED HE EATS EVERY SINGLE DAY.
CHRMP CHRMP

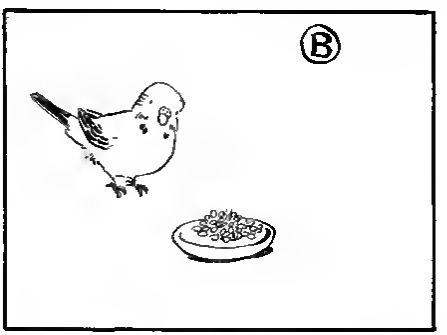
IT'S A LITTLE BITTERSWEET, LIKE THIS.
BARLEY RICE AND PICKLED DAIKON ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME

YUM YUM
MY GRAN FROM THE COUNTRY SENT THIS TO ME.
YUM YUM
I REALLY LOVE THESE THINGS!
TEA TEA
ALL LINED UP..
HUH? YOU DON'T WANT ANY, PIPPIRA?
SHAKE SHAKE


OH HOORAY! I'M SO GLAD TO HAVE A FRIEND VISIT!
OKAMI, I GOT YOU SOME RICE BALLS.


Ⓐ
Q
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A AND B?


I'M HOME..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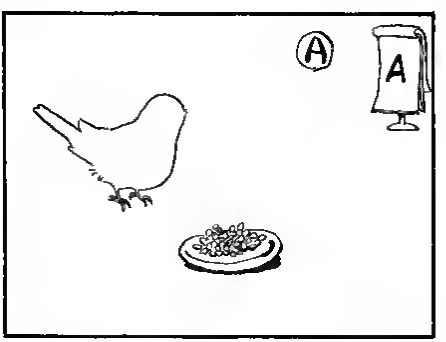
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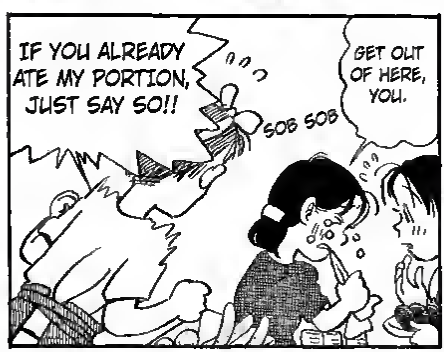
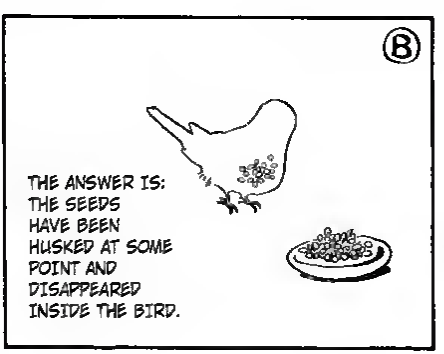

IF YOU ALREADY ATE MY PORTION, JUST SAY SO!!
SOB SOB
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU.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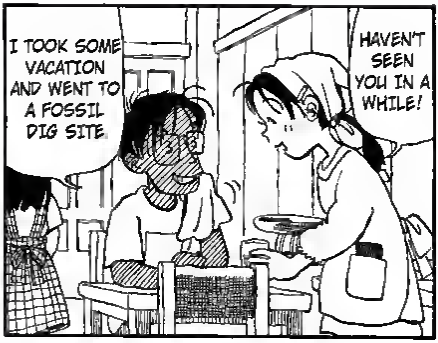
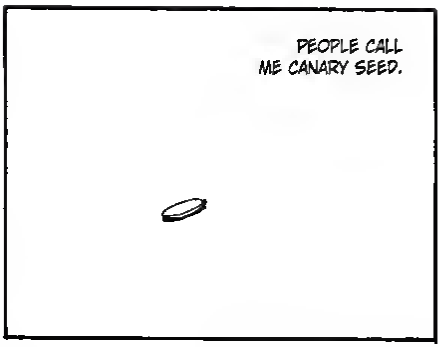
THE ANSWER IS: THE SEEDS HAVE BEEN HUSKED AT SOME POINT AND DISAPPEARED INSIDE THE BIRD.

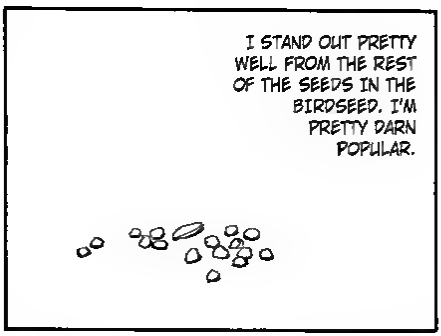

I TOOK SOME VACATION AND WENT TO A FOSSIL DIG SITE.
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE!

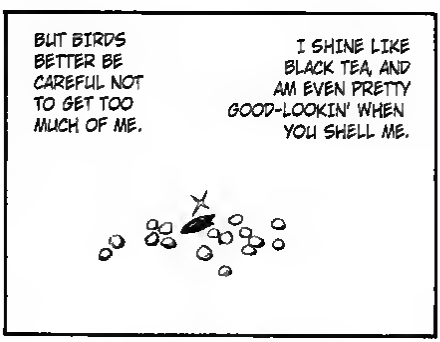
IT'S FROM A DINO-SAUR.
WOW!
I GOT THIS FOR YOU WHILE I WAS THERE.

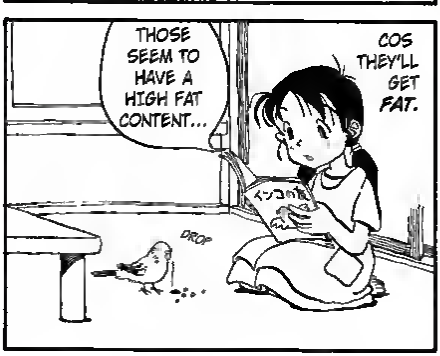
A FOSSIL-IZED POOP.

?
FSH


PEOPLE CALL ME CANARY SEED.


I STAND OUT PRETTY WELL FROM THE REST OF THE SEEDS IN THE BIRDSEED. I'M PRETTY DARN POPULAR.


BUT BIRDS BETTER BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET TOO MUCH OF ME.
I SHINE LIKE BLACK TEA, AND AM EVEN PRETTY GOOD-LOOKIN' WHEN YOU SHELL ME.


THOSE SEEM TO HAVE A HIGH FAT CONTENT...
COS THEY'LL GET FAT.
DROP

FOUR YEARS AGO IN THE SUMMERTIME, I PICKED UP A BUDGERIGAR BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. THROUGH MY OWN CARELESSNESS, IT ESCAPED A FEW DAYS LATER, BUT I COULDN'T FORGET HOW FUN THAT SHORT TIME WAS. IN THE FALL, I BOUGHT MY OWN LITTLE CHICK. SHE SANG LIKE A BELL AND GREW LIKE A WEED, SO I CALLED HER SUZUSHIRO: SUZU FOR BELL, BUT ALSO A PUN ON SUZUSHIRO, ANOTHER WORD FOR A DAIKON RADISH. AFTER I'D LIVED WITH MY BUDGIE FOR A HALF-YEAR, I WANTED TO TELL SOMEONE HOW HAPPY IT MADE ME, SO I PICKED UP MY BRUSH AND STARTED TO DRAW.

I DECIDED ON A FOUR KOMA, BECAUSE OF THE PANEL LAYOUT AND LENGTH. I WANTED IT TO HAVE A CALM, EVERYDAY SORT OF FORMAT. BUT COMING UP WITH THE MATERIAL FOR THIS EVERYDAY, TRUTHFUL SORT OF COMIC WAS A SERIES OF ADVENTURES FOR ME. AT ABOUT PART 2 OF PIPPIRA NOTE, SUZUSHIRO LAID HER FIRST EGG, AT AROUND PART 20, ANOTHER MAGAZINE HIRED ME TO DRAW MANGA FOR THEM, AND AT ABOUT 23, I STARTED TO TAKE CARE OF ANOTHER BIRD, PLASMA. AND AT PART 29, I GOT MARRIED.

AND THEN AT PART 38, ON A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE SPRING, SUZUSHIRO FLEW OFF AND DISAPPEARED.

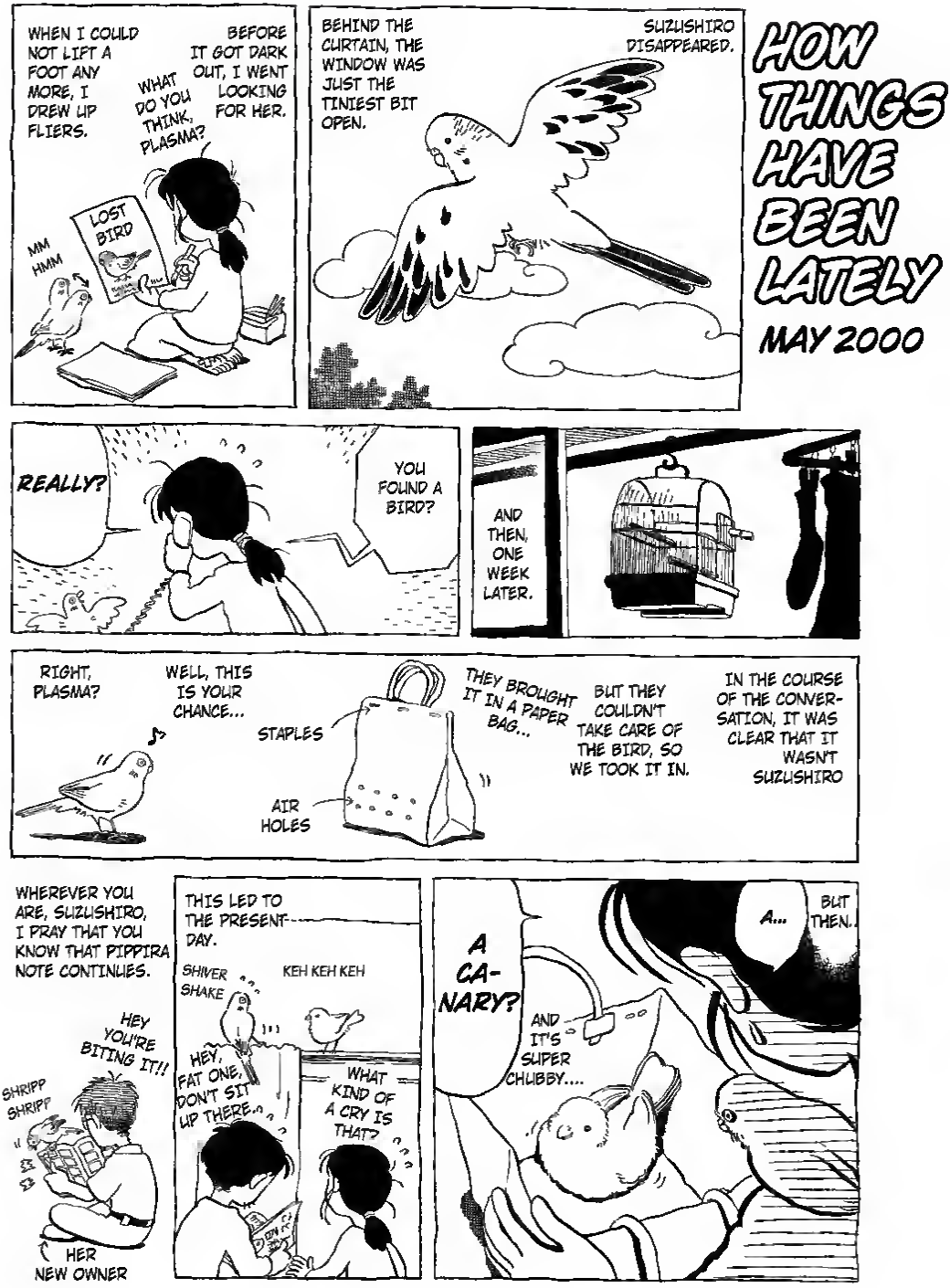
IF I HADN'T MET MR. RIN FROM FUTABASHA, TODAY I'D STILL BE AN ECCENTRIC AMATEUR MANGA ARTIST. AND MR. SOMEYA, I WILL TRY MY BEST TO BE ABLE TO SOMEDAY REPAY EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME. AND OF COURSE OF ALL THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, I CAN'T POSSIBLY FORGET TO COUNT YOU, ONE OF THE MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO DO ME THE PLEASURE OF READING THIS COMIC. I THINK IT'S DUE TO ALL OF YOU THAT I AM ABLE TO CONTINUE DRAWING MANGA LIKE THIS.

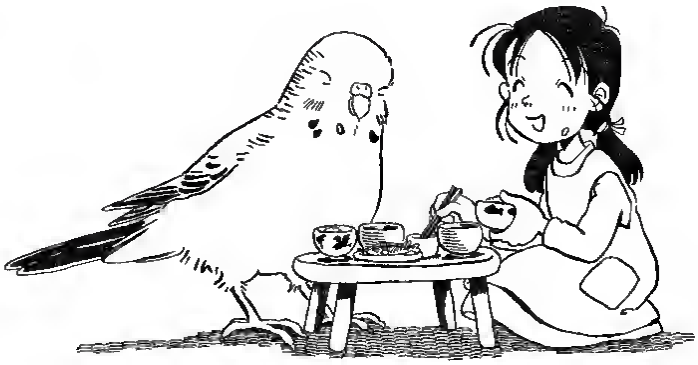
IF I COULD ALLOW YOU TO FEEL JUST A BIT OF THE ENJOYMENT THAT I HAD, AS WELL AS THE STIFF SHOULDERS I GOT FROM THE WEIGHT OF A SINGLE LITTLE BIRD, I'LL BE HAPPY.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING ALONG WITH ME ON THIS JOURNEY. I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN SOMETIME SOON.

THE YEAR 2000, ON A WINDY DAY IN EARLY SPRING.

FUMIYO KOUNO


WHEN I COULD NOT LIFT A FOOT ANY MORE, I DREW UP FLIERS.
BEFORE IT GOT DARK OUT, I WENT LOOKING FOR HER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, PLASMA?
LOST BIRD
MM HMM
BEHIND THE CURTAIN, THE WINDOW WAS JUST THE TINIEST BIT OPEN.
SUZUSHIRO DISAPPEARED.
HOW THINGS HAVE BEEN LATELY
MAY 2000
REALLY?
YOU FOUND A BIRD?
AND THEN, ONE WEEK LATER.
RIGHT, PLASMA?
WELL, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE...
STAPLES
AIR HOLES
THEY BROUGHT IT IN A PAPER BAG...
BUT THEY COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF THE BIRD, SO WE TOOK IT IN.
IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, IT WAS CLEAR THAT IT WASN'T SUZUSHIRO
WHEREVER YOU ARE, SUZUSHIRO, I PRAY THAT YOU KNOW THAT PIPPIRA NOTE CONTINUES.
SHRIPP SHRIPP
HEY YOU'RE BITING IT!!
HER NEW OWNER
THIS LED TO THE PRESENT-----DAY.
SHIVER SHAKE
KEH KEH KEH
HEY, FAT ONE, DON'T SIT UP THERE...
WHAT KIND OF A CRY IS THAT?
A CA-NARY?
AND IT'S SUPER CHUBBY....
A...
BUT THEN...



ACTION COMICS
ぴっぴらノート①

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